

Angela Revie

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Mark Cheyne, who composed most of the original music for The Gold Rhino of Mapungubwe, for which I was the Lead Choreographer. Our collaboration on this project was one of the most creatively rewarding experiences I've had, and Mark was central to bringing the vision of the ballet to life.

From our very first conversation, it was clear that Mark had not only the technical skill to deliver high quality work but also the emotional sensitivity and intellectual curiosity needed to engage deeply with a project that was as historically and culturally rich as The Gold Rhino. We came to him with a concept grounded in the mystery, symbolism and legacy of Mapungubwe and he listened with both attention and imagination.

Explaining what I had in mind musically wasn't always easy - I was working with abstract ideas, emotional tones, and cultural references more than technical musical language. Yet Mark asked the right questions, proposed frames of reference that helped anchor my thoughts and used musical language that brought our conversations to life. We spoke about the history of Mapungubwe, the connection to the ancestors and the spiritual world. We explored in detail which instruments and sonic textures could best express each character's essence and help bring them to life. Somehow, Mark translated all of that into sound and music.

The refining process was a true collaboration. Mark was open to feedback, flexible without ever compromising his artistic integrity, and tireless in his attention to detail. He revised drafts with care and insight, always moving closer to a sound world that captured exactly what the work needed - sometimes even before I could articulate it myself.

The final score exceeded my expectations. It's a composition that feels at once rooted in something ancient and entirely cinematic, evoking a deep sense of place and mystery while also carrying emotional nuance and narrative power. It elevated the work profoundly, and audiences consistently comment on how the music lingers with them.

I cannot recommend Mark Cheyne highly enough. He is a remarkable composer, a generous collaborator, and someone I would work with again in a heartbeat.

Sincerely,
Angela Revie