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DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA ARTS COUNCIL

March 29, 2004

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of Calle Sur, the musical duo comprised of Karin Stein (Colombia) and Ed East (Panama), one of Iowa's not-so-hidden secrets. Calle Sur provides a lively, entertaining, and educational performance that spans the centuries and the cultures of Latin America. Rooted in the traditions of their own cultural heritage, both Karin and Ed are accomplished instrumentalists and vocalists who charm and beguile their audiences, whether in small towns, in a concert setting, at festivals, or in a classroom. Musically, they are a tight band that weaves vocal and instrumental harmonies into a complex sound.

Calle Sur has also produced a Latino music curriculum, suitable for K12 and beginning college music and culture classes. Their workshops are suitable for music, ESL, culture, and diversity heritage conference-goers, as well as for classroom students of all ages. Karin Stein and Ed East are experienced instructors who teach at whatever level is appropriate for their students. The duo has been featured at the Iowa Culture and Language Conference (600-800 educators and social workers) and for Cultural Express: Mi Música, part of a series of folk and traditional arts touring programs sponsored by the Iowa Arts Council and funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Calle Sur will also be headliners at the 2004 Midwest Folk Fest in Waterloo, IA.

I've known both Karin Stein and Ed East personally and professionally for several years and have experienced their performances and programs in a variety of settings. Both are extremely likeable, knowledgeable, and highly qualified professionals who deliver a program that is both tradition and research-based. They provide huge entertainment value for the cost and are a pleasure to work with. They show up on time, work with the presenter in advance to plan an appropriate performance, and have a broad cross-generational and multicultural appeal.

In sum, Calle Sur is a very professional group that I highly recommend. Please let me know if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Rachelle H. Saltzman, Ph.D.
Folklife Coordinator
Iowa Arts Council