



**New Hope Full Gospel Baptist Church**  
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**Bishop David C. Cooper, Senior Pastor**  
**Elder Nina M. Cooper, Co-Pastor**

September 17, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter of recommendation is written on behalf of Dr. Pascal Bokar Thiam of the University of San Francisco's Jazz, Culture & Social Justice Project. On August 12, 2021, we were favored to host a lecture on Jazz and its relationship to African music and culture, followed by a concert with the Afro Blue Grazz Band. During this event, there was a wonderful fusion of documentary film clips, audio conversations, and musical excerpts that advanced enlightenment, engagement, and entertainment amongst the participants. The multi-media presentations helped foster our understanding of both the brilliance and innovation of instruments and music across the ages. For example, it was wonderful to hear about the West African cultural contributions to a variety of instruments, to include the banjo. Dr. Thiam demonstrated great prowess responding to questions during the Q&A period and his thoughtful responses produced high levels of audience appreciation and engagement.

Pascal's style of rich education is informative and empowering that spurs participants to engage in future research and exploration. Dr. Thiam and his team were a joy to work with. We were so impressed with this endeavor that we also assisted in securing venues for the lecture/concert in Arizona and Colorado as well. In conversations with our referring contacts, Pascal and his band produced the same high-quality events in every location. He even had one of the host pastors - also a musician - to join with his band during the concert! In sum, we highly recommend Dr. Thiam for funding for future tours and other academic endeavors. We would be delighted to host him again in the future.

Sincerely,

Bishop David C. Cooper  
CEO/Senior Pastor

Dr. Nina M. Cooper  
Co-Pastor