



Rabbi Matt Derrenbacher
The Temple Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom
5101 US-42
Louisville, KY 40241

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the proposed educational program and performance of Judas Maccabaeus, by Nicholas Finch and the Derby City Sinfonietta, in residence at the Derby City Chamber Music Festival. Each year, during Hanukkah, synagogues around the city put on their own parties and programming, but the only major Jewish community event during a holiday is Purim. This program would give the Jewish community a chance to come together to learn about the history of the work, a bit about the relationship between Jewish life and music, and to hear a remarkable work that doesn't always get a chance to be performed. The Temple is willing to host the event and work with the other synagogues to create programming appealing to the entire Jewish community around the performance, as well as to secure some funding for the performance itself. With such a large undertaking, however, the performance will need assistance from the Jewish Heritage Fund.

This program is not only a great opportunity to bring the Jewish community together, but it is also an opportunity for the wider Louisville community to attend, see Jewish spaces and interact with the Jewish community, as well as to learn about a work that has such deep Jewish roots, despite being written by a composer who was not himself a practicing Jew. In essence, this event will have the opportunity to draw music lovers from all over Louisville to come together at a celebratory time in the Jewish calendar.

I am grateful for all the Jewish Heritage Fund does for our Louisville Jewish Community, as well as the wider Louisville Community. It is because of you all that such great programming can happen and meaningful relationships can be forged.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Matt Derrenbacher



Cantor David Lipp
Congregation Adath Jeshurun
2401 Woodbourne Avenue
Louisville, KY 40205

To whom it may concern,

This is a letter of support for "The Maccabeus Initiative", an exciting new project spearheaded by Nicholas Finch, cellist of the Louisville Orchestra, conductor of the Derby City Sinfonietta, and founder and artistic director of the Derby City Chamber Music Festival. I believe this project could be an exciting and novel addition to how our community celebrates Hanukkah, and I believe it aligns with our shared goals of promoting Jewish life and tolerance and acceptance of Judaism within the wider Louisville community.

I was first approached about this project by Matthew and Kathy Karr, members of our community who are also prominent principal players in the Louisville Orchestra, who introduced me to Nick Finch, who is also a principal player of the orchestra, in addition to a distinguished conductor, curator and organizer. I was interested in the potential value in making this a holiday offering - both to attract and engage members of our own community, but also to bring the holiday and story of Hanukkah to wider audiences, and to promote tolerance and acceptance of our community at a time when so many communities like ours feel increasingly under threat.

Furthermore, I am able and proud to help offer some financial assistance in this regard from Congregation Adath Jeshurun. I believe that if we all combine our forces, we can create an exciting new offering for Hanukkah that could change the way we celebrate and help engage the greater community in profoundly new ways through this celebration. I can also see that we are in for a real artistic treat, having musicians of the highest level available to perform one of the great masterpieces of the classical repertoire - and a work that is hardly ever been done during our holiday.

I strongly encourage the Jewish Heritage Foundation to support this initiative that I hope will bring this new offering for years to come. Please feel free to contact me if you have any other questions or concerns regarding this.

Fingers crossed, looking forward to the first performance on December 17, 2025!

Sincerely,

Cantor David Lipp



5800 Coach Gate Wynde
Windy Hills, KY 40207

To the Jewish Heritage Foundation,

This is a letter in support of "The Maccabeus Initiative", a project first brought to my attention last May by Nick Finch. My husband and I have had the pleasure of attending a number of performances of Nick's, both as a cellist of the Louisville Orchestra, but also as the founder, artistic director, conductor and cellist at his music festival, the Derby City Chamber Music Festival.

I had the pleasure of hosting Nick in my home for dinner last May where he laid out this project in detail for us, and I've been happy since to do my part in trying to promote it and bring awareness to it. I am very fortunate to have a unique perspective on it - as a current board president of the Louisville chapter of the National Council of Jewish women, a volunteer and member of many other Jewish organizations, and having also been a member of the Association of the Louisville Orchestra, I believe I have a uniquely relevant background to understand its merits and how it might align with the goals of the JHF.

When it comes to several of these stated goals - particularly those related to staying connected to Jewish life, building goodwill and acceptance of the Jewish community, and providing educational opportunities to help individuals develop a deep connection to Jewish identity and tradition - I believe this initiative meets all of them, and has the potential to change how Hanukkah is celebrated in a more comprehensive and inclusive way. The Louisville Orchestra has been very successful in its touring of the state in using music to bring people together across the urban/rural divide - I believe this project can serve a similar purpose for Jewish communities, using a power that is unique to music, particularly during the holidays. Handel's "Judas Maccabeus", like his "Messiah", is a wonderful piece of music that tells our story that deserves to be heard. And making this a yearly event among all members of our community, but also open to and presented to the public, I believe could serve a really important function for years to come, in a time when Jewish communities could use such outreach.

I hope the JHF can help give this the springboard it needs to become a yearly event. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any other questions or concerns.

Thanks so much, and I hope you'll consider supporting this worthy initiative!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Bridge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce Bridge



NouLou Chamber Players, Inc.
9915 Fringe Tree Ct, Louisville, KY 40241
www.NouLou.org
NouLouChamberPlayers@gmail.com
615-417-2110 (Cecilia Huerta-Lauf)

June 25, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter of support and commitment to the “Maccabeus Initiative”, led by my close friend and long-time collaborator Nicholas Finch.

I’ve worked very closely with Nick on a whole number of projects, most notably an album of new cello concertos we commissioned titled *Cellostatus*. A long project with many moving parts, we were able together to recently release this album on the Bright Shiny Things label. With many financial, logistical, and artistic challenges to navigate, I was very impressed with how Nick helped us get this over the finish line. We are extremely lucky to have produced a truly great recording, and we are eager to get it in nomination for many awards.

It has been a joy to watch Nick build the Derby City Chamber Music Festival from the ground up, as well as its resident orchestra, the Derby City Sinfonietta. I have aided in these ventures in every capacity - as an administrator, as a chamber musician, and as an orchestral cellist. Nick has helped create a great new institution in town already doing great things, collaborating with some amazing artists from all over the country. I was with him when the initial idea for the Maccabeus Initiative came into being. Having seen Nick successfully organize and perform in so many successful concerts and projects, I have full confidence he can also make this an incredibly successful event that could change the holidays for years to come. I think this will be a really exciting event for the community, and one that can help promote well-being and tolerance when we need it most.

I give my full recommendation to the JHF to help Nick and DCCMF realize the vision of the Maccabeus Initiative. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cecilia Huerta-Lauf
Director, Founder & Cellist of NouLou Chamber Players, Inc.

8102 Barbour Manor Drive
Louisville, KY 40241

To whom it may concern,

This is a letter of support for "The Maccabeus Initiative", a new and exciting project being lead by Nick Finch and the Derby City Sinfonietta, in residence at the Derby City Chamber Music Festival.

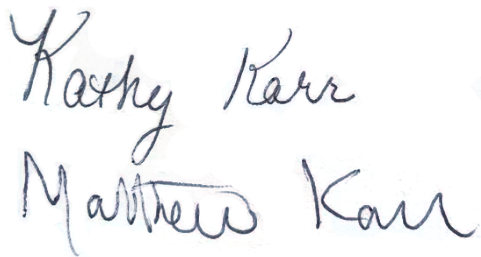
Nick has been our colleague in the Louisville Orchestra and our dear friend for more than a decade. Not only is he an outstanding principal cellist of the Louisville Orchestra, but he is also an accomplished conductor. We have worked with Nick in the Derby City Music Festival and the Derby City Sinfonietta for the past several years. He has created a very successful concert series that includes gifted guest artists from across the United States as well as fabulous local artists. Nick has built a large group of supporters and audience members. He is incredibly well respected in our community as both a cellist and as a conductor. His organizational skills are impressive.

We know that Nick will see the Judas Maccabaeus project through to a very successful conclusion. We feel that this project will benefit the Jewish community, and the entire community at large, during these challenging times.

The Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence has done so much great work for our community. We look forward to collaborating with JHFE to present this project for our community.

Thank you so much!

All best,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is "Kathy Karr" and the second signature is "Matthew Karr". Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy and Matthew Karr