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October 20, 2011

Dear Ted Howe:

The Topeka Jazz Workshop, Inc concert series has had many outstanding performances in its 43 seasons. Your "Afternoon with Ellington" performance on October 16 ranks right up there as quite simply one of the very best..

We particularly appreciate your sharing the spotlight with our Kansas City backups, Gerald Spaits on bass and Tommy Ruskin on drums, both of whom share world-class status with you even though we consider them "locals." As our reviewer Chuck Berg said: "together the trio breathed as one."

Thank you for a standing ovation performance You are truly a jazz pianist extraordinaire.

Marcene Grimes  
Executive Director  
Topeka Jazz Workshop Inc