



Hope College Bands

3/18/13

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this recommendation on behalf of Jessica Wells, whom I have known for four years in my capacity as Director of Bands and Head of the Wind Area at Hope College.

Jessica is easily one of the finest students that I have worked with here at Hope. As a young musician, her work is first-rate. She has striven for excellence on her primary instrument, the bassoon, in a number of capacities including lessons, Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble. In each of these instances, Jessica has proven herself as a leader both musically and personally. I can honestly say that not only is she one of the best performers I have seen come through the Music Education program, but also has a work ethic equal to none.

Jessica applied herself equally intensely to her academic music studies. She took advanced conducting with me and was one of the top students in that class. In her desire to excel even more with conducting, she enrolled in an Independent Study with me, a sign that she took her work very seriously. Her work in that class has earned her praise both in her work on campus, but also in her student teaching. Furthermore, her conducting abilities have led me to give her additional responsibilities and opportunities, such as guest conducting the Wind Ensemble during our tour to New Orleans, and coming in and running rehearsals with both Wind Ensemble and the Concert Band. As for her other classes, I know her other instructors feel that she is conscientious, dedicated, and a truly fine student.

As a person, Jessica has shown herself to be of good character. She is very reliable and contributed above and beyond my expectations for the Wind Ensemble. She volunteered to go to the Midwest Band Clinic to staff our booth; has been a member of the band council every year; and has been instrumental in assisting me at our annual high school Honors Band. If I needed someone to cover a rehearsal or run a sectional, Jessica was one of the first people I would ask. She has a pleasant personality and is honest and trustworthy, as her many friends will attest to.

As for her recent student teaching, Jessica truly shone at Crossroads Middle School. While there she worked with several bands and earned the trust and respect of her cooperating teachers. The scores given to her by myself and the coordinator of the Music Education Department, Christina Hornbach, are some of the highest we've given. While the focus of Jessica's student teaching was towards middle school band, I have no doubt that she would be equally successful at any level.

I highly recommend Jessica because I strongly believe your program would benefit by having an educator of her caliber. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time,

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