



School of Music

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To whom it may concern:

I am very pleased to write this letter on behalf of Kathryn Stewart. I am Associate Professor of Music and coordinator of chamber music at Memorial University of Newfoundland. I have the responsibility for organizing student chamber ensembles for all instrumentalists and vocalists at the school, and I typically also coach about half of those ensembles. In the winter semester of 2018, Ms. Stewart completed the teaching apprenticeship component of her TSEP (Teaching Skills Enhancement Program) experience observing coachings given by a few different faculty members, working alongside me in a few coaching sessions, and running several coaching sessions for student ensembles by herself. During the semester, Kathryn and I met regularly to discuss her observations of faculty coaching sessions, my observations of the coaching sessions she ran, and the implications these observations had for her developing pedagogy.

Ms. Stewart distinguished herself in every component of her apprenticeship. I was particularly impressed with how thoroughly reflective her approach to teaching is. She recorded the coaching sessions she conducted and clearly listened back to each, usually numerous times, filling up an entire notebook with her observations about what worked particularly well, things she missed in the moment, and ideas about alternate approaches that might be taken. She also exhibits a strong awareness of the fact that differences in her individual students (learning styles, ability and experience level, and even stage of progress on a given piece of repertoire) will have an impact on her chosen approach to teaching in the moment.

Throughout the coachings I observed Ms. Stewart to give, she demonstrated to me a fine ear for where improvements could be made, and already a well-developed arsenal of coaching tools for working with groups of varying levels. It is worth noting, finally, that most of the chamber music she coached this semester did not involve wind instruments which is her area of expertise. I find it impressive that she distinguished herself as a promising chamber music coach (her first time engaging in this teaching activity) while working primarily with groups comprising strings, piano, and voice. Students who have the opportunity to work with Ms. Stewart in the future will be privileged indeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nathan Cook'.

Nathan Cook, D.M.A.

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