



School of Music

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It is a great pleasure to write this letter of support for Kathryn Stewart. I have known Kathryn for the past two years in my capacity as Head of Voice at the School of Music, Memorial University. This past winter 2018 semester, Kathryn was registered in MU 6610 Pedagogy Internship, a graduate course that was team-taught by me and my colleagues: Dr. Sean Rice, clarinet and Dr. Kristina Szutor, piano. I feel I can give you an honest assessment of Kathryn's gifts as a musician, her academic abilities, and an assessment of her teaching of young musicians.

Kathryn has a strong intellect, rich in the systematic knowledge of woodwind pedagogy. With an arsenal of approaches, her comments are based in physiological or metaphorical language according to the needs of the student. Her detailed repertoire preparation process, using music theory, aural, written skills and performance is impressive. She is a creative and a highly effective, incredibly organized, innovative teacher. Moreover, Kathryn is infused with a caring sense for those in her charge. She is the epitome of commitment required to teach students in the day-in, day-out demands of teaching and the nurturing of young musicians. She has great insights into the pedagogical needs of her students at all levels of music study. Kathryn is an outstanding teacher and teaches the whole person, not just the instrument. The lessons she delivered were incredibly productive, always respectful of her student, meeting them at where they were with their level of ability. She has an exciting command of what is needed in a superb teacher of young musicians in the classroom, studio and in an ensemble.

Kathryn is also a performer par excellence. In October 2018, Kathryn played the principal clarinet part in a performance of Michael Daugherty's "Labyrinth of Love" for soprano and wind ensemble in our *Music at Memorial Concert Series*. She prepared this challenging score with impeccable detail that belongs to the finest professionals. Kathryn plays the clarinet with a beautiful, expressive sound, and a great deal of technical mastery and fluency. I have also heard her performances during her tenure at the School of Music and have also been impressed by her professionalism and wonderful collaborative work.

As a graduate student, her greatest strengths are her strong intellect, her confident articulation of her ideas and her stellar gifts as a teacher and performer. Her meticulousness of preparation, thought, action and interaction is thorough and consistent, demonstrated as a performer, teacher and colleague to her peers. Her communication skills, written and verbal are exemplary. She is highly motivated and demonstrates a desire to explore and expand her creativity in all of her work. Kathryn is an excellent role model and is respected and admired by her colleagues.

This recommendation would be remiss if it did not additionally offer comments regarding Kathryn's work ethic and character. She is responsible, patient, reliable, positive, one of the most delightful students I've ever encountered. There is an intellectual narrative that partners everything she does, and her ownership of a tangible and reliable process is impressive. As a colleague, Kathryn is a team-player and a supportive, collaborative colleague. In addition to the many attributes she offers as a teacher and performer she is kind, considerate, respectful, hard-working, and a calming/steady influence in the inevitable sea of dramatic personalities one finds in a community of artists. Kathryn is also a person of impeccable integrity who is respectful of the views of everyone with whom she interacts as a teacher, scholar, and colleague.

I am excited that Kathryn is continuing her graduate studies at the University of Houston. I expect that Kathryn will continue to deliver exceptional work during her doctoral studies and in all her future pursuits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Leibel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jane Leibel
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