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**University Bands**

February 20, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Michelle Carpenter, an applicant for a position teaching music in your district. As Director of Bands in the Ohio University School of Music I have had the opportunity to work closely with her and I enthusiastically endorse her for employment in your district. Michelle completed a bachelor of music education degree at Ohio University, where she studied clarinet, in the Fall of 2015. She performed in the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Clarinet Choir, and in the Marching 110, "The Most Exciting Band in the Land," for which she served as the clarinet music section leader for two years. In addition to her academic commitments, Michelle was also very involved in the School of Music through the local chapter of the National Association for Music Education as well as her assistance with the Honor Band Festival and the Under the Elms Summer Concert Series.

Michelle was an excellent student and is an outstanding teacher. She possesses a maturity far beyond her years, which becomes immediately apparent in the music classroom. Once she steps onto a podium she commands attention not because of a stern or strict demeanor, but because she is always prepared, secure in her content knowledge, and able to deliver teaching instruction in direct and meaningful ways. Students under her direction, no matter if they are beginners or adults, trust her abilities and engage with her without hesitation, confident that they are in good hands. Most importantly, Michelle's rehearsals are fun: students learn because they enjoy her rehearsal intensity coupled with her personal lightheartedness.

Michelle has a very positive personality and is energetic in her interactions, while still maintaining high standards for her students. She also works hard to continue to grow as a teacher and conductor by taking advantage of extra opportunities, including the Student Conductors Honors Recital, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Conducting Workshop, taking conducting lessons beyond the required conducting curriculum, guest conducting the Communiiversity Band during the summer concert series, and most recently serving a crucial role in the Wind Symphony's commercial recording project. These opportunities arose because of Michelle's preparation, hard work, and because of her special potential as a future music educator and conductor. She will make a great colleague, working with her fellow teachers in music and the rest of the building to make sure her students have the best possible musical experience and become well-rounded students.

I highly recommend Michelle Carpenter as a candidate for a music teaching position in your district. Her teaching skills, musicality, leadership, and dedication are assets that I highly value, and our School of Music is better because of her presence. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding her candidacy for this important appointment.

Sincerely,

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