



# OHIO UNIVERSITY

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April 2, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am glad to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Michelle Carpenter, who is applying for employment at your school. Michelle has been my clarinet student at Ohio University from fall 2011 to the present time. She plans to do her student teaching in the fall of 2015. The music education major requires that the student take one to one individual lessons on their major applied instrument.

Michelle came in with talent, and has made tremendous improvement over the past four years. She came in with a fine clarinet sound and finger technique. Over the past four years she has made tremendous improvement in her articulation and in the focus of her tone. She is innately musical and this comes through in her playing. Most importantly, Michelle is an absolute pleasure to work with. She is open to constructive criticism, is inquisitive, and is a diligent worker. She has a bubbly personality that endears her to everyone with whom she comes in contact. I have observed that she is an extremely popular student in the clarinet studio and beyond. The high attendance at her voluntary February 2015 recital is testament to this fact. This was an outstanding shared recital with trumpet. Michelle put in a tremendous amount of work for this event. This recital required extra lessons and rehearsals and a lot of coordination of meetings as the personnel included three percussionists and piano in addition to trumpet. She balanced these dates beautifully and she made scheduling these meetings with multiple personnel so easy for me as she always replied to my emails extremely promptly.

In my opinion, Michelle will make an excellent teacher. Her comments to other students performing in the weekly clarinet studio class are tactful and constructive. I have also observed her teach lessons through the Athens Community Music School and can testify that she does an outstanding job. Teaching at this Community Music School is an honor, and only the best students are recommended to do this. I think this bodes extremely well for her future as a music professional. Recently, she was selected for initiation into the music honor society Pi Kappa Lambda. Only the best students are chosen for this honor society, based on grade point average and musicianship. In conclusion, Michelle is a dear person whom I will miss greatly. It has been a pleasure working with her over the past four years. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Rischin, Professor of Clarinet [rischin@ohio.edu](mailto:rischin@ohio.edu) (740)707-7061  
Professor of Clarinet; Winner, 2002 College of Fine Arts Outstanding Teacher Award