



HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Music

August 28, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Millie Martin. As professor of music at Humboldt State University, including responsibilities for conducting the HSU Symphonic Band (MUS 106H) and Humboldt Symphony (MUS 150), I was a colleague of Ms. Martin during the past two years. Her primary responsibility in our music department was to teach bass studio lessons, usually consisting of between six and eight students per semester. As a result of direct observation of her teaching studio bass, I can state emphatically that she provided outstanding instruction to our students. She covered all aspects of bass performance, including proper position, shifting, bow technique, fingerings, and music reading. Her students worked on scales, exercises, solo repertoire, and ensemble repertoire, and performed in regular bass studio recitals at least once per semester. Millie also covered music theory and historical styles in the lessons, ensuring that students had a complete context for the music that they were practicing. Through studio recitals as well as students' performance in my ensemble courses, it was clear to me that significant improvements were being made. Further, the students spoke highly of her expertise as both a performer and a pedagogue, and they enjoyed her teaching.

Ms. Martin's impact on our music department went well beyond the studio lessons. She was primarily responsible for initiating a baroque opera production in the spring of 2014 in which she used her experience as a performer at the Embassy of Brazil to bring the indigenous music of South America to our university. The director of our Opera Workshop program spoke in glowing terms of Millie's tireless efforts in obtaining this unique music, bringing it from Brazil by way of Washington D.C. where Millie had performed it previously at the National Gallery of Art. Ms. Martin also shared her knowledge of performance practice of this music with our HSU students. This project was truly beyond the call of duty, especially for a studio lesson instructor, and it had a huge impact on our music department.

It is important to note that Ms. Martin also went beyond the expectations of a university lecturer in her interactions with students. She took the time to listen to student concerns, and frequently adapted her curriculum to meet their needs. Our bass students run the gamut from strictly jazz musicians to strictly classical, and their reading skills also vary widely. Despite these challenges, Ms. Martin met their musical needs, and found ways to make positive connections with them as individuals. She was also a valuable colleague, and her many contributions to our department will be greatly missed.

I would be happy to provide further information regarding Ms. Martin's qualifications if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Cummings". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Dr. Paul Cummings

Associate Professor of Music

Humboldt State University

1 Harpst Street

Arcata, CA 95521

707-826-5435

pcc6@humboldt.edu