



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Karen Yonkers. I first met Karen in January 2008, when I became conductor of the Rockford Community Band. I have had the privilege of working with Karen more closely when she enrolled at Calvin College to complete her music education degree. In addition to her participation in Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, Karen has also been a student in my Woodwind Methods and Instrumental Conducting courses. She is a competent musician, dedicated student, capable educator, and wonderful person.

During her time at Calvin, Karen was able to participate in our band community for a number of semesters. As such, she always came prepared to rehearsals, making every effort to contribute meaningfully to the ensemble. Though her primary instrument is clarinet, Karen was willing to assist in the Symphonic Band percussion section as well. She also demonstrated positive leadership by constantly offering patient and helpful assistance to other students.

Karen has demonstrated her commitment to learning and performing well academically. Her efforts are perhaps more impressive since she is also a devoted mother. I certainly respect her dedication to her family as well as her schoolwork. As a student in my classroom courses, Karen always came well-prepared and intentional about getting the most from each class experience.

Furthermore, Karen is on her way to becoming an effective music educator. In addition to developing her musicianship and acquiring the necessary skills, Karen has matured into a fine teacher. She maintains her own private studio and has held various teaching positions (in music as well as other subjects) in local school districts. Karen has also garnered positive reviews in her field experiences.

Finally, Karen is a terrific woman. She is respectful and thoughtful in her communication with others, always demonstrating a positive and encouraging attitude. With her God-given talents, work ethic, and demeanor, Karen would serve as a welcome addition to any teaching staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any other assistance.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Engle

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