



THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Potsdam

September 16, 2017

Dear Dean Sitton,

This letter is in expression of my support for Erin Brooks's consideration for reappointment.

I have had the opportunity to observe Dr. Brook's excellent classroom teaching during her audition for the position, and again this semester when I visited her Music History I class, that day a lesson on the Mass and Office. The lesson was finely organized and varied with a range of activities that included reviews assignments on Moodle, and of concepts and their application to specific score examples, while making contemporaneous parallels to other arts, including architecture.

Erin engaged students effectively by regularly eliciting responses and querying related pre-assigned reports of outside work (sections of the Mass Proper) at well-timed points in the lesson. A brief quiz at end of the class reinforced the lesson's most important themes.

Excellent use was made of varied resources that included the white board (coded in different colors for clarity), handout worksheets, Powerpoint presentations, scores, and recordings. Dr. Brooks' demeanor was, as always, friendly and approachable, enabling an easy rapport that encourages an openly communicative interchange. It is immediately evident that her students know that she possesses a genuine concern for their progress, and that they hold her level of professionalism in justifiably high regard.

Dr. Brooks is conversant in a variety of musical styles, enabling her to build bridges to students' musical experiences through connections across ages and diverse cultures. She has strengthened our curriculum with courses that intersect disciplines, like her current offering that deals with music and politics, and we look forward to further enrichment of our program by her future contributions. In addition to her teaching at Crane, she also maintains an active presence internationally, as evidenced by her recent scholarly activities abroad during the past year.

During her short time here, Erin has proven herself a fine scholar and collegial colleague whose enthusiasm, energy, and congeniality make her a valued member of our department. I have no doubts that she will continue to grow into the position and to thrive here at Crane. It is my pleasure to offer my strong positive recommendation for her reappointment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Busch
Professor of Music History and Piano

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