



February, 2021

To the Crane School of Music Personnel Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically support and recommend Dr. Erin Brooks for continuing appointment and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Music. Specifically, I would like to address committee work by Dr. Brooks during the recent Crane dean search and add some general observations of her work at Crane.

As chair of the dean search committee, I had the great pleasure of working with a large and diverse group of colleagues. Dr. Brooks was a part of the diversity and we were all thankful for her contributions! This committee truly represented many groups and parties within Crane and the campus. I can say, without hyperbole, that the committee constituent's input was of great value to making excellent choices. Erin's voice was strong within the committee and incredibly insightful.

I was impressed with Erin's ability to interpret information from resumes that led us to critical decisions (both for and against candidates). These insights quite literally would have been missed without her keen eye and perception. The committee's ability to accept perspectives from Erin and others was a great strength of this group. Erin's perceptions continued to help guide the committee through the interviews and ensuing discussions.

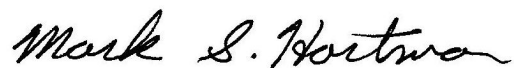
As a committee member, Erin was an excellent communicator. In that, I mean that her positions were clearly stated with concerns or advocations. She was well-aware of competing positions and was very sensitive to those advocating a different point of view. Perhaps another way to state this, would be to note her strong collegiality working with her peers.

As in every committee, there is much work to be done outside of the meetings. Erin volunteered to make reference phone calls, shuttle candidates during campus visits, and participate in evening meal gatherings. Unfortunately, the latter two did not take place due to the pandemic. Erin's willingness to contribute to the whole of the process is a statement in itself. As the committee chair, I was grateful for all of her work.

My general observation of Dr. Brooks is gathered from students, collegial interaction and a close office proximity. As a veteran of the Crane School of Music for thirty-five year, I cannot think of a colleague more deserving of continuing appointment and promotion. Her research and writings are vast and best addressed by her colleagues in that area. As someone who shared a common hallway with Dr. Brooks, I observed a constant stream of students getting extra help and advisor meetings. Presidential Scholars were working on capstone projects with Dr. Brooks. I heard viola practice as she prepared for the Orchestra of Northern New York and string quartet performances. Her willingness to collaborate on projects with colleagues in many disciplines was extraordinary.

My point is that SUNY Potsdam and The Crane School of Music has a faculty member engaged in literally all aspects of campus life! In Dr. Brooks, the campus has a person who is enthusiastic and outstanding in all of her endeavors. Her body of work exceeds the standards that we set for ourselves as a college community and serves as an example for which we should all strive. Given her participation in campus committees, Crane committees, volunteerism within the campus and the community, and her excellent teaching and research, Dr. Erin Brooks should be rewarded with a continuing appointment and promotion. I hope that you will give her your highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Hartman". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Mark Hartman
SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor
Professor Emeritus, The Crane School of Music