

SUNY Potsdam Crane School of Music
44 Pierrepont Avenue
Potsdam, NY 13676

Abigail M. Ryan
318 Mulberry Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

January 6, 2026

Dear Hiring Manager,

My name is Abigail Ryan and I am a PhD Candidate in Musicology at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. I am writing to you today to express my support in Dr. Erin Brooks's application for full professor at The Crane School of Music. I attended Crane from 2017-2021, meeting Dr. Brooks in the fall of 2019 in her Music History III course. It was here that I discovered both my interest in musicology and my interest in teaching in higher education. Inspired by my first class with her, I went on to take Music, Gender, and Sexuality post 1800 with her that next spring, solidifying my desire to pursue musicology further. Under Dr. Brooks's advisement, I began preparing application materials for musicology programs across the United States. Many schools required several writing examples, many of which I began in Dr. Brooks's courses. With her thoughtful editing and comments, I was able to modify many of my essays into suitable graduate school application materials. The graduate school application process was quite daunting for me and could not have been completed without Dr. Brooks's mentoring.

In the Fall of 2021, I began my Master of Music degree in Cincinnati. For many students, this would be a time when their undergraduate professors would lose track of them. Fortunately for me, this was not the case, as Dr. Brooks has continued contact with me for every step of my academic journey. She has consistently taken time out of her schedule at conferences to meet with me and provide advice and support through both my master's and PhD programs. Additionally, we discuss my academic progress through email several times a year. In the 2023-2024 academic year, I served as President of CCM's Music Theory Musicology Society and organized our 9th biennial graduate student research conference. When it came time to invite a keynote speaker, Dr. Brooks was my first call. We were so honored to have her visit our school and discuss some of her research with us.

In short, Dr. Brooks would be a marvelous addition to the full professor faculty at Crane. Her dedication to her students begins at Crane but continues on through their careers. Dr. Brooks is a huge reason for how I got to where I am today, and I will always be grateful for her continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abigail M. Ryan', with a stylized, flowing script.

Abigail M. Ryan