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To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter in support of Aidan Lawford-Wickham for his software engineering internship application at Microsoft.

As part of my research in the Music Technology Group at Pompeu Fabra University, I am a primary developer on the AcousticBrainz project, a cross-organisation project developed by the MetaBrainz Foundation and the Music Technology Group. From April to August 2019, I mentored and worked with Aidan as part of Google's Summer of Code program, where he worked with the MetaBrainz foundation on AcousticBrainz. His project consisted of building a database and web API to measure the similarity of audio recordings of music based on features extracted using signal processing techniques.

For his Summer of Code project, Aidan built upon previous work completed in AcousticBrainz, extending existing functionality and moving it from a prototype to a functional feature. Aidan immediately fit into our developer community, interacting with community members on IRC, and contributing new features to the project. His work on extending existing functionality in the project meant that Aidan sometimes had to spend time understanding existing code, but he was able to clearly describe the changes and improvements that he made. He was always open to feedback in his work and took it on board to improve his contributions.

A clear improvement that Aidan made in his project was to scale the prototype from a test database of 1 million items to our main production database of over 10 million items, while keeping the speed of the full database similar to that of the test database. Aidan's work has already been used by others within the MetaBrainz project, and he has also collaborated with developers on other MetaBrainz projects using the data that he generated from his project.

I would like to recommend Aidan strongly for any position that he applies for. If you have any further questions about his work, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

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