## **GENE RYMAN**

## **CHOIR DIRECTOR/THEORY AND COMPOSITION TEACHER**

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## To whom it may concern:

I am a Choir Director, Piano Accompanist, and Theory/Composition Teacher relocating to Houston, TX and looking for a full time position teaching Middle School/High School Choir, Theory, and/or General Music. Over the course of my teaching career, I have received four nominations for "Best Music Direction" at the Metropolitan High School Theatre Awards, led my high school women's choir to the semifinals at the Intercollegiate High School a Cappella competition, built a general music curriculum, and heavily revised my district's music theory curriculum to include more student-centered learning.

I have ten years of experience as an educator, including five years teaching high school Choir, Music Theory, and General Music, and five years as a piano teacher with a private company based on Long Island, New York. I hold a Master's degree in Music Education from Boston University as well as a Bachelor's degree in Musical Studies from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. I am certified in Secondary Education in New Jersey, K-12 in New York, and have applied for certification in Texas.

My time as a teacher at Northern Highlands Regional High School in New Jersey has afforded me many opportunities. Beyond my aforementioned four nominations at the Metros and my women's choir making it to the semifinals at the ICHSA, I have five years of experience teaching both in a traditional classroom setting and as a choir director. I was the music director and rehearsal pianist for our award-winning theatre program, which in turn presented me with the opportunity to work as music director for a theatre production at the elementary level in a school which lacked a curricular choral program.

On the other hand, my time as a piano teacher with Music Simply Music, based on Long Island, New York, afforded me an entirely different opportunity; The opportunity to educate on a much more personal level and work in-depth with a diverse array of students with a variety of needs and I'm excited to apply this experience in my classroom teaching.

I aim to cultivate a love of music as well as a holistic knowledge of music within my students through group activities, performance, improvisation, and other opportunities for them to express themselves creatively. I am looking for a position in which I, too, have the opportunity to be creative and to make a difference not only in the lives of my students, but in the school community itself.

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Sincerely,

Gene Ryman