



University of Pittsburgh

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Department of Music

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RE: Jack Agnew, Communications and Digital Media/Music

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm pleased to write in support of Jack Agnew's pursuit of a career combining his work at the University of Pittsburgh in Digital Media and Music. Jack was my student for the two-semester Musicianship course sequence required for the Music Minor curriculum, and was my academic advisee within the Music Department from August 2020 through April 2024. In the time that I have known Jack, I have found him to be a determined student, committed to his evolution as a musician in preparation for life and work after his university studies come to an end.

The Minor in Music at the University of Pittsburgh is intended to provide a broad foundation of musical understanding and experiences for the student. The curriculum is comprised of courses in music theory; sight-singing and aural skills; music history; ethnomusicology; jazz; and performance. Jack was committed to acquiring all of this knowledge despite a background that did not include opportunities for formal training in music. As his teacher, I noted his work ethic and desire to achieve excellence in the Musicianship coursework. The courses are skill-based and require students to listen attentively to musical structures, compare them to known entities, and transcribe them in appropriate musical notation, as well as to vocalize previously unknown melodies at sight. The class size is intentionally small and students must demonstrate their abilities in oral and written form on a daily basis. The development of such methodical aural observation is a transferrable skill that will serve Jack well in his future work environments. Throughout these courses, Jack proved to be a committed learner who was willing to invest extra time and effort to develop skills that were entirely new and which did not come easily to him. In many learning situations within the course sequence, he demonstrated a willingness to engage with challenges that felt uncomfortable or ambiguous in the pursuit of new skills, abilities, and knowledge.

As Jack's academic advisor, I've been impressed with the ways in which he independently augmented the requirements for the Music Minor by enrolling in courses that further expand his knowledge and abilities. These courses include class piano and two semesters of individual voice lessons, as well as Electronic Music, Music Production and Recording Techniques, and a class in the programming environment Max/MSP. I am confident that Jack will make excellent use of these experiences and will bring the same determination, effort, and attentiveness to his professional life as in the past four years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Rice".

Susan Rice, D.M.A.

Teaching Professor and Director, Heinz Chapel Choir

Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Music

<susan.rice@pitt.edu>