



From: Dr. Andrew Zhou, Assistant Teaching Professor, Music Theory and Composition
108A Setnor School of Music
Syracuse University

Re: Recommendation letter for Jihang Dai

Dear FPP Review Committee,

I am delighted to provide this letter of recommendation for Jihang Dai. I have been the professor/instructor of record for two semesters of sophomore music theory and musicianship (III and IV), for which Jihang has been a teaching assistant. The course is a required core class for the entire Setnor School of Music undergraduate community, and Jihang is responsible, in part, for the 36 students enrolled. I have also heard Jihang as a pianist, performing his own works, and seen his work as a theorist. Throughout all of these interactions, Jihang has proven himself to be passionate about teaching, reliable, and thoroughly knowledgeable about the topics at hand. He is a quick learner and reflects on feedback I have offered him.

Jihang's classroom teaching is marked by clarity and precision. He chooses great examples and is able to convey information in a way that is digestible but thorough, which is a difficult balance to strike. Theoretical concepts are backed by thoughtfully chosen examples. As an accomplished pianist, he is also able to produce examples in real time to demonstrate, which makes the concepts come to life. His grading has proved to be consistent and thoughtful, and feedback on homework and tests is delivered very succinctly and in a manner that is useful in communicating areas of improvement to the student. He also makes himself available to students for extra help. He has a truly masterful knowledge of the material and I believe, without a doubt, that he will be a great instructor of record in the near future.

Please feel free to contact me should you need further information at akzhou@syr.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Zhou'.

Andrew Zhou, D.M.A.
Assistant Teaching Professor, Music Theory and Composition
Setnor School of Music, School of Visual and Performing Arts,
Syracuse University.