



## University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

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November 21, 2006

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I recommend Amanda Blaylock to you for serious consideration for the open music position in your school district. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to know Amanda for over four years during her time at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. During that time I have found Amanda to be personable, knowledgeable, dedicated and engaging. I believe that the district that hires Amanda will be making a very wise investment in the lives of their students and staff.

During her time on campus Amanda participated in the several of our choral ensembles and was a student conductor of the Women's Concert Chorale during her final semester on campus. She proved to be the most outstanding student conductor that I have had in that ensemble. Her instruction of the choir was thorough, creative and very effective. The ensemble appreciated her approach toward teaching and responded extremely well to her conducting. She is enthusiastic about her work and that is communicated to her students in an appropriate and contagious manner. She has demonstrated in various settings that she is committed to the musical education of her students as an essential part of the process of preparing concerts. Students learn to examine pieces in musical and affective ways in order to maximize their musical understanding and their performance potential.

During her last semester on campus, I was fortunate to work with Amanda on an independent study that examined teaching in the choral classroom. Her work was outstanding. She served as a model for other students during a visit by a nationally known guest artist/teacher and received high praise from that teacher regarding her teaching preparation and lesson execution. Amanda also completed a faculty/student collaborative research project that was funded through grant money that examined effective ways to teach sight-singing in the private voice setting. Her final product in this collaboration is impressive.

It is a great pleasure to recommend Amanda for your consideration and I do so enthusiastically and with no reservation whatsoever. Amanda is an outstanding individual—the type of person that I believe you would be pleased to include on your teaching faculty. She is one of the strongest candidates we have had since my arrival on campus six years ago.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Rieck, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Music Education and Choral Music

*Excellence. Our measure, our motto, our goal.*

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