

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Mr. Nathan Cort in both a professional and personal manner since the fall of 2007. I have had the pleasure of being in several classes with Mr. Cort as well as serving as his supervisor during his student teaching experience.

As a fellow student of Mr. Cort, I observed him to be punctual, organized, appreciative of both the fellow students' and instructors' comments, and thoughtful in his own contributions to class discussions. Additionally, during the occasions when Mr. Cort was called upon to give presentations, it was clear that he was thorough in his preparation and delivery of the subject matter. It should be noted that one of the classes I shared with Mr. Cort was a graduate-level Philosophy of Music Education course. Although the majority of class was made up of graduate students and indeed, the coursework was intended for such students, Mr. Cort showed command of the material and handled himself with maturity and ease.

As his supervisor of record during his student teaching experience, I observed Mr. Cort over the course of a semester. Mr. Cort was responsible for teaching both middle and high school vocal music, and in doing so, encountered a wide variety of abilities, learning styles, behaviors, and populations. Mr. Cort possesses the necessary understanding and skill to effectively manage the aforementioned elements successfully. Additionally, Mr. Cort brings to his teaching an excellent knowledge base, and talent in, his subject matter. This knowledge, talent, and understanding of pedagogy combine to make Mr. Cort an excellent teacher.

While I believe firmly that all of the previously mentioned attributes are important for a perspective employer to consider, perhaps the most important thing I observed about Mr. Cort was his love of the profession. Mr. Cort blossomed during this semester-long experience, and his students reaped the benefits of this growth. I can only imagine the further growth that will occur as Mr. Cort becomes a full-time member of the teaching profession. It is clear that he enjoys the art of teaching and takes pride when his students understand the subject matter.

I give to Mr. Nathan Cort my highest recommendation. As an eleven-year veteran music teacher in the public schools of upstate New York, I know that he has the ability and determination to lead and build a strong choral/general music program. Additionally, Mr. Cort possesses an easy-going personality, good sense of humor, carries himself professionally, and will be an excellent colleague. He will be an asset to any music department. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Julie K. Hagen
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