



JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Bloomington

August 5, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to recommend Michael Linert for a music teaching position. I have known Michael for four years, while he was a student at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University where I worked with him closely on a number of levels. Michael took my violin and string pedagogy classes, directed and served as a lead faculty member in the Fairview Project (for underserved first- and second-graders in a local public school), and was a colleague in the pre-college IU String Academy. I have witnessed Michael's teaching on a number of levels in a variety of situations, and continue to mentor him as he progresses through his education.

Michael is one of the most gifted and thoughtful teachers I have worked with. He is methodical, detail-oriented, and extremely knowledgeable about music pedagogy. His lessons are well-planned and incorporate a variety of strategies that work with a wide variety of learning styles. Michael has a fantastic teaching personality – full of energy and enthusiasm – and his teaching is fast-paced and enjoyable on every level.

I have not met a more versatile musician. In addition to playing the cello beautifully, he has a tremendous voice and composes as well. He continues to develop these talents, performing recitals and studying at the artist level. Michael brings all of these skills to his teaching in a way that is unique and a wonderful role model for his students. He works equally well with brand new beginners in the first grade and advanced high school orchestras.

Michael was my graduate assistant in charge of the Fairview Project for one year. His organizational and management skills are tremendous. He supervised 36 of his university peers in teaching situations, managed the scheduling, and interfaced with the public school administration and teachers. He did all of the above with a smile on his face and a calm, cool demeanor. The teachers (both IU and Fairview) loved him. He was in this position while carrying a heavy academic load and performing a lead role in an IU Opera Theater production. Michael has an amazing capacity to get things done, and done well at that!

I highly recommend Michael for any teaching position. While he could easily teach strings at any level in the public schools, he also is a respected private cello teacher as well, with a strong history of success in applied teaching. He could also teach voice or general music with ease. A tremendous musician, lovely person, and extremely hard worker, Michael is a gem. Please feel free to contact me should you have further questions (bbrenner@indiana.edu).

Sincerely,

Dr. Brenda Brenner
Associate Professor of Music Education (Strings)
Co-Director, IU String Academy
Director, Fairview Project
President-Elect, American String Teachers Association