

Berklee
college of
music

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February 7, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in support of Erica Thomas, who has applied for a position with your school. I have known Erica for four years as a student in my Elementary Classroom Methods course at the Berklee College of Music. I also co-supervised her student teaching semester. As such, I have had many opportunities to see Erica's work in action.

Erica is an exceptional young teacher. She is highly professional and very engaging. Erica presents as someone much older and more experienced than most teachers her age. One of the schools at which she student-taught posed many challenges, but Erica handled them with grace – in fact, I'm not sure she even saw them as challenges! The students at both schools adored her, as did the teachers. From my first visit to observe her student-teaching, the principal of the school told me that he would love to have Erica stay on after she graduated - he was very disappointed that she intended to return to Georgia. He asked me to please send him more student teachers like her. Again, this was from very early in her student-teaching semester.

Erica was always well prepared for her lessons, always greeted the students with a genuine smile, and managed student behavior in such a natural and positive way that students both loved her and respected her.

Erica's musical and pedagogical skills are both very strong. Additionally, she is a lovely person who will make a great colleague. Erica will fit in well in any school community, with teachers, students, and parents. I am very confident that she will make a great success of any music program with which she is affiliated.

I hope that you will strongly consider Erica for a position at your school. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss Erica further at [cryan1@berklee.edu/617-620-3745](mailto:cryan1@berklee.edu).

Sincerely,



Charlene Ryan, PhD
Associate Professor of Music Education
Berklee College of Music

