

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

May 10, 2005

Recommendation for Bill Vliek:

I am writing to recommend Bill Vliek as a Middle School/High School Band Director. I have known Mr. Vliek for five years, and in that time I have witnessed his outstanding musical talent, unbounded enthusiasm, and academic excellence. Without a doubt, he is the finest music education major I have had the pleasure to work with since coming to Michigan State University. He is also the finest conductor MSU has produced since I joined the faculty in 1997. His exceptional talent and positive attitude have made him a leader among his peers; and in the School of Music he has earned the respect of both his professors and fellow students. Mr. Vliek would be an excellent colleague for many reasons. Dedicated to teaching and sharing the joy of music with others, he represents the ideal public school band conductor.

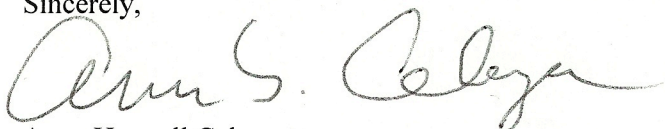
As you can see from Mr. Vliek's resume, he is a dedicated music teacher with a variety of skills and experience. In addition to teaching private lessons and serving as a student teacher and band camp instructor, Mr. Vliek has experience conducting bands, orchestras, and chamber ensembles. He has study abroad experience, and an impressively broad repertoire. As a performer, Mr. Vliek has shown great success while participating in a variety of ensembles. Over the last few years I have been impressed by Mr. Vliek's dedication to thinking about and studying in depth the music he plans to perform and/or conduct before presenting it to his audience.

I have never encountered such an enthusiastic student at MSU, and Mr. Vliek's obvious skill in working with other musicians in a collegial, well-organized manner has led to many top-notch performances here. Mr. Vliek is also a self-starter who sets high goals for himself and invariably achieves them. He has experience and interest in teaching a broad range of students, and judging by his students' progress over the years he is obviously an excellent teacher.

Perhaps his excellence as a teacher comes from the true dedication he has shown to music as a student. In his years here at MSU, he proved himself to be equally comfortable in the concert hall and in the classroom. After witnessing his academic excellence in three separate courses, I can comfortably say that one of his most impressive talents is his ability to apply concepts and ideas discussed in the classroom to his own performances and teaching.

Simply stated, Mr. Vliek reflects all of the qualities that make a great public school band director: strong musical skills, commitment to teaching students of varying abilities, and the ability to pass on to students and colleagues a fresh enthusiasm for music and its place in society. I can give no higher recommendation for any of the students here at Michigan State University, and I have no doubt that Mr. Vliek will be a welcomed and valuable addition to any music program. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Anna Harwell Celenza  
Chair of Musicology



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MUSIC  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS

**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

Michigan State University  
102 Music Building  
East Lansing, MI  
48824-1043

517/432-5253

FAX: 517/432-2880

<http://www.music.msu.edu>

Music Events Line  
517/355-3345