To Whom It May Concern:

This letter of reference is for John Hunter, one of our outstanding Averett graduates in music. John is a particularly inquisitive man who has dedicated himself to the pursuit of excellent music making and a conscientious life. He is a fine, Christian man who has made giant strides in his professional development since graduating from Averett University.

At Averett, John was an outstanding singer, approaching all of his studies with enthusiasm and curiosity. He was my student in choir, choral conducting, and advanced music theory. John has a strong passion for conducting which he utilized in one of our area churches while he was a student. He had a keen interest in music theory which he demonstrated often in his keyboard training and improvisational development. His senior voice recital was an excellent example of his vocal development during his years at Averett, and it stands as one of the best student recitals ever in our department. John is an outstanding bass singer, and he was willing to use his talents in many ways throughout the campus and the Danville community.

I had the good fortune of taking my college choir to sing at Carnegie Hall the year after John’s graduation. John joined us in New York to participate in our choral event. His participation was encouraged by the president of our university who was especially proud of John’s accomplishments as one of our graduates.

Although John was an outstanding student of music during his undergraduate studies, his achievements in graduate school were stunning reminders of his dedication to music. John absolutely blossomed as a musician, keyboardist, and conductor. John keyboard experience at Averett was only as a pianist. As a graduate student, he became an amazing organist, tackling the intricacies of playing Bach with extraordinary ease. He sent me videos of his playing organ that were astonishing to all of us in my department.

John has visited with me on several occasions since his graduation from Averett. He showed me videos of his conducting from graduate school which were thoroughly impressive. His musicality and positive command of the choir he was conducting were incredible. Clearly, he had come into his own as a professional musician.

John’s high caliber musicianship is quite apparent, but there are many personal qualities in John that are very admirable. He is a gentle man with great empathy for those around him. He is friendly and caring, and balances his professional life with a great interest in fishing. I admire him for having an interest outside of music that is such a positive outlet.

John is such an impressive man. He has kept in touch with me in the nine years since his graduation. He shares with me his love of the music of the great choral composer Eric Whitacre, the music of The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, and his knowledge of outstanding websites of interest to us musicians. He shares his dreams and goals, both of which are noble, and he takes the time to inquire about me as a person, not just his former instructor.

John is very special, and he possesses great ability. It is my pleasure to highly recommend him for a job.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gail Allen, Chairman

Department of Music

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