

May 23, 2006

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my great pleasure to give my highest recommendation and accolades to Mr. Chris Bickley. I met Chris through a mutual friend, Bob Prater, who brought Chris into my Jazz Band rehearsal to demonstrate improvisation. Since that time, Chris has been an outstanding mentor and friend to my students and me. He was our guest soloist and clinician for our Jazz Bash, a dessert/jazz concert featuring our jazz band. His performance was phenomenal, and our audience and students were amazed at his playing skills.

It is readily evident that Mr. Bickley is an accomplished musician. What seems to separate him from the rest of the pack is his easy-going, welcoming personality. I have known musicians who were outstanding performers, but they were often unapproachable. Mr. Bickley is the exact opposite. All of my students have felt enough at ease to ask Chris any questions, or to give any demonstrations. He in turn, has offered extremely helpful responses, and has enabled the jazz band members as well as the entire ensemble to reach new heights in performance. The rapport between Mr. Bickley and my students is one of admiration and mutual respect and trust.

When Chris heard that we were in need of a sound system for the Jazz Bash, he readily and willingly offered us the use of his own equipment – at no charge, to ensure the success of the evening. With his helpful comments, his outstanding musicianship, and his generosity, our “bash” was a resounding success. It is my opinion that this was the best concert that I have ever had...in the 21 years that I have been teaching! I owe a lion’s share of the success of the evening to Chris Bickley.

Thank you Chris for your interest in our music program. To the reader of this note, thank you for your time and attention. Should you choose to work with Mr. Bickley, you will not be disappointed.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Rouster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary Rouster
Director of Bands
Hanover-Horton Schools

Hanover-Horton School District

Linda Brian, Superintendent
237 Farview Street
Horton, MI 49246

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April 2, 2007

Mr. Chris Bickley
939 Denecourt
Jackson, MI 49202

Dear Chris,

Thank you so much for all of the time and effort that you have put into making our Jazz band such a success. The time and effort that you have put into our program is so remarkable. The results are incredible. You have taken us from small town performance to big time sound. When I watch our students watching you perform I know that they are having a once in a lifetime experience in music.

We have been so fortunate to have been blessed with your talent and expertise. On behalf of the entire Hanover-Horton School Board please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,



Linda Brian
Superintendent