

# EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY™

May 4, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Thomas Torrento for a teaching position at the elementary and secondary school level.

Thomas Torrento student taught in instrumental music this past semester in the Van Dyke (Mich.) Public Schools and I had the pleasure of being his university supervisor. Tom was the strongest student teacher in the cohort of 15 I had this semester, and he was one of the best I've had in my 21 years at Eastern Michigan University.

Tom displayed a confidence in front of students that was well beyond his years and his experience. His cooperating teacher felt comfortable right away with putting Tom in front of his classes. Classroom management was not an issue for him as it is with many student teachers, and his teaching was creative, well-paced, and effective. Most of all, he engaged the students. They knew that he cared about them and about their learning. His unit, which involved giving students a historical and cultural context to a particular piece of music he rehearsed with the high school band, was powerful. As a result of his teaching, the transformation in the students' playing of the piece was immediate and impressive.

We at Eastern are proud of Tom and know that he will be a fine addition to the teaching profession. I give him my highest recommendation with no reservation whatsoever.

Sincerely,



Kevin Miller  
Professor of Music  
Director of Orchestral Activities  
Supervisor, Instrumental Student Teaching