



Ted Rounds
Professor of Percussion

To whom it may concern:

This letter is written on behalf of Eric Carraway. Mr. Carraway has been a member of the Percussion Studio at Kent State University since the fall semester of 1999. His audition for admittance into the School of Music showed an advanced level of skill in all the major areas of percussion performance so he was admitted into the program immediately and without reservation. His scores in the music theory portion of the audition were also impressive, and as his GPA in high school was above 3.5, Eric was also admitted into the Honors College of Kent State University. Eric is the first student in the Percussion Studio to finish the degree of Bachelor of Music in Education while enrolled in the Honors College in the space of only four years.

During this time, Mr. Carraway has performed two recitals. The first was a joint junior recital which is the only recital required of all Music Education majors. It was an excellent recital in every regard. Eric also performed a senior recital in December of 2002. The senior recital is not a requirement for the Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, but it is strongly encouraged by the Percussion Studio. His performance was professional in every aspect, and he played Joseph Schwantner's *Velocities* as well as many professional percussionists have.

Eric was the only freshman percussionists to ever achieve a position in the Kent State University Wind Ensemble. As a senior, he is now the Principal Percussionist. Eric has been responsible for all the duties associated with that position including: assigning parts, organizing and directing section rehearsals, and managing instrument moves throughout the campus and for performances off campus. In all these areas Mr. Carraway has proved to be a capable leader. He is consistently well prepared for all rehearsals, and arrives for all rehearsals and performances well in advance. He inspires the other percussionists to perform at the very highest level. Under his leadership the percussion section has been very responsive to the conductor, well prepared, and sensitive to the other musicians in the ensemble.

As an ensemble player in the percussion ensemble Eric has showed the same leadership skills. The members of the ensemble enjoy preparing pieces for performance that do not require a conductor, and Eric directed the rehearsals of Michael Burritt's *The Doomsday Machine* for our fall concert.

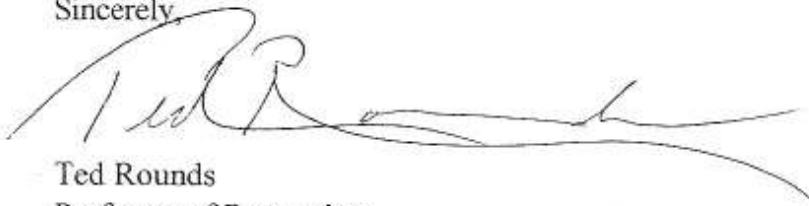
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Eric has taken a keen interest in playing jazz on vibraphone and regularly plays vibes with our steel band. His soloing is continuing to improve and he has performed as a soloist with the jazz ensemble.

As an educator Eric Carraway has taken on several private students as well as being the percussion instructor for high school marching bands and percussion ensembles. He has performed these activities admirably well by all reports and yet his responsibilities with the Percussion Studio and other ensembles have never suffered. Also, during the spring semesters, Eric has played with the Matrix Indoor Marching Percussion Ensemble which has enjoyed success in the indoor marching circuit. During the summers, Eric has played keyboard percussion with notable drum corps including the Glassmen and the Cavaliers.

Eric Carraway is strongly motivated to achieve his goals. He has been able to act as his own advisor for the Bachelor of Music Education degree in order to ensure completion within four years. He has excelled academically, his organizational skills are formidable, and his musicianship is superb. Eric has every intention of becoming an excellent music educator and I am confident that he will succeed. I also anticipate Eric becoming a well respected performer as he is well on his way toward a successful career in that arena. He will be of great service to any institution with which he is associated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Rounds", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ted Rounds
Professor of Percussion
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