



Christopher Mattaliano
General Director

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Young Audiences Oregon and Washington
1220 SW Morrison St # 900
Portland, OR 97205

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Jonathan Eder to you. I have known Jonathan for several months now. He teaches piano to my seven-year-old son, so I have a vested interest in his effectiveness as a teacher. I also have an interest in Jonathan's work in the school setting, both as a parent in the Portland Public School system, and as an arts educator.

In my position as Manager of Education & Outreach for the Portland Opera, I know the importance of quality arts programming for the school system, both as a teaching artist and as a parent. Jonathan's programming provides a much needed service to schools and teachers by filling a gap that budget cuts have left in schools throughout the Portland Metro Area. Music specialists have been torn from our children's educational landscape—what they would normally have taught in the course of the school year is simply lost, a yawning chasm that classroom teachers cannot hope to fill. Enter Jonathan Eder, who, with enthusiasm, wit and grace, can teach a group of 5th graders with little frame of reference the major genres of "legitimate" music; show them the mysterious innards of that musical beast the piano; and introduce them to the jazzy joys of a casual sing along—all in an hour! That ain't easy. But it is essential in this new world of public education, where music education of any kind seems to be as rare as a unicorn.

Jonathan demands much and receives much from the children with whom he works. They are engaged, inquisitive and responsive during his time with him. Most importantly, though, they retain what he has told him. Through written responses, Jonathan receives, it is clear that the students internalize what they have been taught and are able to apply their new knowledge in discussion, both written and verbal. On a very personal level, my own son is motivated to practice and has learned a lot—and quickly—under Jonathan's patient tutelage.

Lastly, a word about Jonathan's willingness to work with teachers. I have found Jonathan to be very responsive to ideas from other educators, and open to honing and adapting his work, considering outside suggestions. Jonathan Eder is a talented, compassionate teaching artist, and I recommend him unreservedly.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexis Hamilton".

Alexis Hamilton
Manager of Education & Outreach
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Celebrating the breath-taking beauty of Opera.