



## SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY · 1873

December 20, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of Dr. Martin C. Reynolds. As the current Assistant Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Horn at Southeast Missouri State University, I work extensively with Dr. Reynolds. We collaborate on rehearsal and performance schedules, consult about my students' progress in his concert ensembles, and serve together as faculty members on many Department initiatives. I am always impressed with his positive demeanor, his work ethic, his forward thinking, and most importantly his concern with student achievement.

Dr. Reynolds was the head of the search committee that hired me at Southeast a little over four years ago. During my interview, we had an extended conversation on his philosophy and direction of the department and band program at Southeast. In my years at Southeast I have seen him systematically put to work the details of that conversation. His demands on preparation, accountability, programming, and performance have resulted in a dramatic upswing in maturation for all of the ensembles he leads at Southeast – especially the Southeast Wind Symphony. Even though Dr. Reynolds' planning and preparation is outstanding and his teaching techniques work very well, one of the questions he asks most is “How can I help the students achieve at a higher level?”. This part of his approach is something that makes him stand out as a world-class music educator.

He is also a dedicated contributor to faculty initiatives at SEMO. He consistently demonstrates keen intellect and forward thinking. His work in the recruiting and scholarship efforts of the department have been very valuable to all of the studio professors. Reynolds currently serves as the chair of our department recruiting committee and is member of the scholarship committee. I have been thoroughly fascinated with some of the unique approaches he uses in recruiting and retaining fine students to fit in to our program. While I will let him go in to detail about the practices he uses, I can say that they work. Reynolds and I have seen a dramatic change in the number and caliber of students in the past two years – as a direct result in a change of philosophy in the recruiting initiative.

Moreover, Reynolds is quick to offer assistance on projects and performances. For example, he was the first faculty member to offer his help with planning and performing at the 2017 Mid-South Horn Workshop that I hosted. As a result, the Southeast Wind Symphony performed as a featured ensemble on the Saturday evening concert. The performance included accompanying Tod Bowermaster of the St. Louis Symphony and a mass horn ensemble of approximately 40 horn players from three different Universities.

I consider Dr. Martin C. Reynolds as a valuable faculty member in our Department of

Music. While I believe his expertise would be sorely missed at Southeast, I strongly recommend him to anyone in search of a world-class Director of Bands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Kenney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Nicholas A. Kenney, DMA  
Assistant Professor of Horn  
Assistant Director of Bands  
[nkenney@semo.edu](mailto:nkenney@semo.edu)  
1(573) 651-2344