

To whom it may concern,

Lauren has been my mentor for the past four years. I first met Lauren during a presentation that she was invited to give at an upper division music course I was taking during my undergraduate at the University of California, Davis. Lauren effectively communicated to an audience with little scientific background how science could be used to study and understand music. She also effortlessly presented her own research on how eye tracking could be integrated in music research. I distinctly remember how, at the end of the presentation, many of my classmates had tons of questions to ask her. Lauren remained engaged with my classmates throughout and even suggested many of her own thought-provoking questions for us to think about. Her presentation left such a lasting impact on me that it sparked my initial interest in music cognition. I asked Lauren if I could learn more about her research and ultimately joined her at the Janata Lab at the UC Davis Center for Mind and Brain.

Since then, Lauren has mentored me on how to conduct scientific research on music as a research assistant. She trained me on how to communicate and work with human participants, and was always willing to explain the reasons behind the methodology of the experiments. Although it initially took some time to learn the procedures, her empathy and patience created a comfortable environment for me to adjust, even if I made mistakes. More importantly, she also taught me how to think inquisitively, and this skill carried on with me throughout my academic life. Using what she taught me, I was eventually able to design and propose a new experiment to the principal investigator. Although the experiment's design was initially crude, Lauren worked with me to refine the methodology and walked me through the steps necessary for maximal success.

Outside of the lab, Lauren has also been integral to helping me succeed in my academic endeavors. Her welcoming demeanor and excitement toward teaching has always made it easy to approach her for guidance on anything that I needed help with. Whether it was critiquing my personal statements for graduate school, helping me analyze chord progressions for my music theory course, or brainstorming with me on my senior project for the music major, she was always there to offer advice for anything I needed help with. Without a doubt, Lauren's mentorship helped to shape me into a curious and engaged scholar. Because of her, I graduated with a Department Citation and Faculty Recognition Award for Excellence in Music from the UC Davis Department of Music, and a Citation for Outstanding Performance from the UC Davis College of Biological Sciences. These awards were granted in part as recognition of my research activity under Lauren's mentorship.

Needless to say, Lauren has been an important part of my academic life, and I would not have found such success without her. Lauren has helped me to grow as both a scholar and as a person. I hope that this letter provides a small glimpse into my experience with Lauren and will help you come to a favorable decision for her. There is no doubt in my mind that Lauren would be an excellent addition to your institution. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,



B.A., Music

B.S., Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior

