



May 20, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the opportunity to work with Kasey Ball in numerous professional performance settings, and I can say without hesitation that he is an outstanding horn section player, section leader, and arranger with a strong grasp of harmony, phrasing, and ensemble writing. As a multi-instrumentalist on trumpet, saxophone, and trombone, Kasey brings a rare level of versatility and professionalism to every musical situation. He can improvise confidently in the moment while maintaining a deep understanding of ensemble balance, knowing exactly when to step forward and command an audience and when to elevate the bandleader as a supporting voice. That level of musical awareness would make him a tremendous asset in any educational or performance setting.

Kasey's musicianship reflects a high-level understanding of both jazz tradition and commercial music styles. He demonstrates the kind of listening skills and musical maturity that great educators pass on to students. He also carries a commanding stage presence that engages audiences while modeling professionalism, discipline, and confidence for young musicians.

I feel he is uniquely equipped to inspire students in a talented music program that encourages practical skills they can carry into collegiate and professional music settings.

Musically Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Quiana Lynell", written over a horizontal line.

Quiana Lynell

Founder | Q Sound Records

m: 646.422.8686



College of Music & Dramatic Arts
School of Music

To Whom It May Concern

I have worked with Kasey Ball for over two years in a variety of musical environments. My first interactions with Kasey were in regards to his desire to pursue a master's degree in jazz studies at Louisiana State University where I serve as assistant professor of jazz studies. Those conversations lead to Kasey enrolling at LSU, however, prior to Kasey beginning his graduate studies, he and I began to work together professionally in several musical situations. We have continued our professional association in and out of the academic sphere and I would like to speak to Kasey's work in both musical worlds.

From the first note I heard Kasey play on trumpet, I knew he was an accomplished musician with a depth of conception. Kasey plays jazz with melodic integrity, rhythmic conviction, and harmonic accuracy - skillfully delivering improvisations on repertoire from the traditional jazz vernacular to bebop and beyond. He is a wonderful section player in any context, from jazz big band, to the classic "horn band" type situation. Kasey and I have also worked together in a blues horn section context with Kenny Neal's band. Most importantly, in regards to Kasey's New Orleans brass band experience, Kasey can be considered the consummate journeyman. He has played in a variety of day-in and day-out New Orleans brass band situations. He has amazing brass band "chops" from the demanding physical side of playing the trumpet, he has amazing "chops" in terms of the repertoire, style, and nuance required in brass band playing, and he has real life "chops" having lived the good, bad, and ugly experiences of intense New Orleans brass band work - good weather and bad weather, good audiences and bad audiences, good bandmates and bad bandmates! If I wanted to provide a tutorial or training for my LSU students on any and all elements of New Orleans brass band music, Kasey would be my first phone call.

Kasey is an experienced, knowledgeable, skilled educator. While pursuing his master's degree at LSU he has taught private lessons and directed the LSU Jazz Ensemble. His students have quickly grown and developed as musicians, jazz improvisers, and professionals. His work with the LSU Jazz Ensemble has resulted in highlight moments in each of our concerts. Typically the pieces Kasey directs receive so many positive comments that I, as the director of the group, have wondered if maybe I should let Kasey direct my selections too! I cannot think of anyone better to train musicians in any genre, but especially New Orleans brass band music. His teaching and playing experiences make him the perfect fit for such a position.

I highly recommend Kasey Ball without reservation and would welcome the opportunity to discuss Kasey's skills at length. Please do not hesitate to contact me in regards to Kasey Ball and this position.

Sincerely,

Doug Stone

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of Kasey Ball, a versatile multi-instrumentalist who excelled in my graduate seminar in linear (Schenkerian) analysis in Fall 2022. He is a remarkable musician and student who, sensing gaps in his academic preparation for this very demanding advanced course, sat down with me every week outside of class to make sure that he grasped every detail of the assignment and reading. This sort of determination and self-motivation is precisely the sort of thing that bodes well for his success as a teacher and colleague.

His recent recital was one of the musical high points of the 2023-24 school year, showcasing his versatility as composer, ensemble leader, and soloist. He has served as a mentor to younger students and as a leader in the jazz studies program. Given his extensive "real-world" performing experience he is a valuable asset to our performance curriculum as a whole, and his professionalism, positivity and intelligence shines through in every encounter. Any music department that gains him as a member of its faculty will be extremely lucky. His musicianship and energy are transformative. I recommend him to you in the strongest possible terms.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Perry

Paula G. Manship Professor of Music Theory / Coordinator of Music Theory

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Henry Turner Jr's Listening Room Museum Foundation

2733 North Street

Baton Rouge La 70802

To whom it may concern,

Kasey and I met in 2021, when I was shopping at a meat market where he was working as a butcher to make ends meet during the pandemic. His coworker, a longtime fan of mine, introduced him to me as a musician. I invited him to sit in at a jazz jam session I was hosting later in the week at my listening room and hired him into my band on the spot. Since then, he has performed with my ensemble as well as several of the bands created by my Listening Room All Stars as a multi-instrumental performer and loop artist. He has performed with us in capacities ranging from trumpet and saxophones in my blues outfit to bass guitar with rocker Eddie Harris and full one-man backing band for motivational beat poet N'Spire.

He is a well-rounded, energetic, and considerate performer and a capable bandleader. Kasey has brought his ensemble as well as his solo performance to my listening room and to each of the festivals I present on a yearly basis. He is a sought-after recording artist with a specialty for multi-instrumental tracking and arranging for horns and has been steadily producing original music releases as a solo artist/ producer and with his ensemble KB & the Backbeat. Kasey has a diverse approach to his music and uses a multi-cultural appeal.

I strongly recommend Kasey Ball and feel he would make an asset to any educational or musical institution. I would be happy to discuss his merits with you at length if you decide to contact me.

Henry Turner Jr

Hiring Committee
Department of Jazz Studies
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA

Dear Members of the Hiring Committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Kasey Ball for the position of Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies at LSU. As a student who has had the privilege of studying under Kasey this year, I can confidently speak to his exceptional ability as both a musician and an educator. His profound knowledge of bass technique, dedication to fostering improvisational skills, and unique ability to personalize instruction will make him an invaluable addition to your faculty.

I initially sought out Kasey to help me with improvisation, which had long been a significant hurdle in my development as a musician. From our first lesson together, it was clear that their approach was grounded in a deep understanding of the fundamentals, while also allowing room for creative exploration. Kasey has repeatedly shown a remarkable ability to demystify complex musical concepts and has helped me unlock new possibilities in my improvisation with advice that has proven beneficial across the instruments that I play. His guidance has been crucial in shaping the way I approach music. It is a rare occurrence when I am improvising or approaching a new jazz piece that I do not recall some important nugget of wisdom he has provided me.

One of my favorite aspects of Kasey's teaching style is their ability to meet students where they are and personalize instruction to suit individual needs. He has always proven himself to be highly attuned to the unique challenges that I faced and adjusted his teaching methods accordingly. Whether working with beginners or advanced players, Kasey knows how to push students to achieve their full potential while respecting their current skill level. This individualized approach has helped me grow at an incredible rate, while fostering a deep sense of confidence in our abilities. I had always been shy about playing an improvised solo in front of others, but under Kasey's tutelage, that fear has greatly subsided. I'm now attending local jam sessions with confidence thanks to his work with me.

In addition, I think it's important to note that Kasey is always looking for ways to expand beyond the traditional jazz instruction I expected. He embraces new technologies and creative approaches to music-making, allowing students to engage with music in new and innovative ways. Their enthusiasm for integrating technology—whether through music production software, non-traditional use of effects, and leveraging loops has expanded my understanding how music can be created and performed. Kasey has been wonderful in encouraging me to explore these methods, which has empowered me to not only understand traditional techniques but also to experiment with music composition and performance. This forward-

thinking mindset is a perfect fit for a program like LSU's, which values both musical innovation and academic rigor.

I believe that Kasey] would be an ideal fit for the Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies position. His ability to teach both traditional jazz techniques and modern music production, combined with their commitment to fostering student growth through personalized instruction, aligns perfectly with my idea of what makes an excellent bass instructor. They bring a rare combination of technical mastery, creativity, and a deep passion for teaching that will undoubtedly inspire students at LSU to excel in their musical pursuits.

Thank you for considering this recommendation. I am confident that Kasey would make a profound impact on the LSU Jazz Studies program, and I wholeheartedly support his candidacy for this position. Should you need any further information or would like to discuss his qualifications in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mike Holt

Head of Research and Instruction Services, LSU Libraries

Louisiana State University

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