

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

Email: michaelholt@lsu.edu

Office: 225-578-8128