

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Victoria Hillabolt and I am one of Dr. Bellamy's previous students from the University of Northern Iowa. I had the privilege of working with Dr. Bellamy my Junior and Senior year at UNI. Dr. Bellamy taught a handful of classes while I was a student there and I had the opportunity to take most of them. I was able to work with Dr. Bellamy one-on-one in private lessons and also in large settings for courses such as Reed Making and Introduction to Double Reeds.

In private lessons, Dr. Bellamy worked to develop the skills I needed as both a musician and bassoonist, and to be able to express myself expertly through my music. She helped me evaluate my skills, both strengths and weaknesses, and provided me with many resources and opportunities to continue to grow as an artist. Dr. Bellamy excelled at identifying my musical strengths and helped me apply them, enhancing my musical performances. The energy that Dr. Bellamy brought to private lessons really sets her apart from other instructors I have collaborated with. She never missed a lesson, was always prepared and prompt, and I always left my lessons encouraged and motivated to practice and apply the concepts we had rehearsed. She helped reignite my passion for music and continues to inspire me to this day.

Dr. Bellamy effectively balanced her time between students during her Reed Making class. Reed Making is a very hands on process and continuous guidance from the instructor is crucial to the student's success. She was careful to spread her time out evenly amongst all of her students during this course. Dr. Bellamy provides extensive explanations on reed making, providing multiple options to ensure all students understood each lesson. She required her students to create a minimum of ten reeds per semester, and then she expertly helped us adapt them to fit our preferred playing techniques.

Dr. Bellamy balances many interests and passions in her life, but it is never questioned that her students are her top priority. Dr. Bellamy's lessons and courses were always a welcoming environment that encouraged academic and personal growth. Dr. Bellamy goes above and beyond her requirements, reaching out to her colleagues to see how students are performing in other classes. Her task was to instruct me on how to be a better bassoonist, however she gracefully assisted me in becoming a better student, performer, and educator.

Without hesitation I highly recommend Dr. Bellamy for this position. Dr. Bellamy brings a sincere passion and unending energy for music and education that is sure to be passed on to students and colleagues. She would be an asset to your team.

I would be happy to expand on my experiences with Dr. Bellamy. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Victoria Hillabolt

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