



To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Dexter Froud as a hire for projects in need of a media composer.

During the Spring and Fall 2024 semesters at the University of Pittsburgh, Dexter was in my Creative Musicianship (CM) and Fundamentals of Western Music (FWM) courses, respectively. In CM, students learn to create original songs using a digital audio workstation while FWM provides a comprehensive introduction to reading and understanding tonal music.

According to talks with my colleagues, my CM course is unusually difficult. I expect a lot from my students in terms of creative workload and class participation. In this class, students complete hefty weekly creative projects with multiple substantive technical and artistic requirements. Additionally, students must regularly critically evaluate work by their peers, articulating these critiques to the class. My FWM course is also challenging with high standards for homework load, class participation, and accuracy. Students must not only regularly pass timed music theory tests but also apply these theoretical concepts while making and performing original scores for piano weekly. In my class, students must not only understand music theoretical concepts but apply them creatively.

I could very easily describe Dexter as someone who displays high levels of conscientiousness, intelligence, and determination in my classes. He attends class on time, engages with my lectures and his peers, and completes assignments with a high quality of effort, but beyond these qualities Dexter is a young artist who displays talent and high levels of potential.

The strongest traits important to being an artist that I find in Dexter are curiosity and vulnerability. During class time, I often observed Dexter's interactions with his classmates. He would intently listen to them, evidenced by his thoughtful questions and responses which were often clever or humorous. Once in class, I asked if anyone would share a song they had written. Dexter sang his song "Next Best Thing" while accompanying himself on piano. The song was well-composed and emotionally moving for me and the class as it described a queer exploration of his sexuality and its resulting heartbreak.

Additionally, Dexter has completed multiple multimedia projects that include not only original music production but also displays of his skills in film editing, screen writing, video production, and directing. These experiences would make Dexter a well-rounded addition to a media production team, especially one where creativity and communication between various arms of a project are necessary or where production members need to fill multiple roles.

The highest praise I can give Dexter is that, through my relationship to him as his teacher, I grew as a person and artist, learning much from him about vulnerability and curiosity in the creative process.

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To be clear, I highly recommend Dexter Froud for hire as a media composer. I am confident he would be a valuable addition to a production team.

If you have questions for me concerning Dexter's skill set or character, please do not hesitate to send me an email or call.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emerson Voss".

Dr. Emerson Voss
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