

To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing in support of Dr. Gerard Yun's application for a tenure-track position at Wilfrid Laurier University. As a recent Laurier Music Faculty alumnus who has worked with Dr. Yun extensively in personal and professional capacities over the past five years, I can speak to his excellence as an academic, conductor, and mentor. In addition to singing as one of Dr. Yun's choristers at the University of Waterloo and Laurier from 2011-2015, I have benefited from the opportunities to manage the Laurier Concert Choir (2013-2014) and student conduct (2014-2015) under his direction.

As I have seen firsthand, Dr. Yun's diverse understandings of choral repertoire, conducting, social justice, and cross-cultural music making are assets to the Music Faculty. While working with Dr. Yun, I have had exposure to a diverse array of musical materials, from Western classical music to South African Spirituals and choral improvisations. In each rehearsal, Dr. Yun strives to elevate music making from simply reading notes and rhythms on pages into significant experiences, while also sharing his knowledge with his students.

Dr. Yun's invaluable work has made possible programs at the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Laurier's Christian Studies and Global Citizenship program, the Master of Arts in Community Music, and the undergraduate Bachelor of Music. With his breadth of knowledge, Dr. Yun encourages and fosters both student respect and creativity. Dr. Yun's willingness to engage with and listen to students has sparked the creation of online forums for classroom discussion and an informal meditation group with elementary guidance on contemplative music practices.

I would like to conclude this letter by saying that Dr. Yun has largely impacted my decision to devote my life to music. There are few individuals more deserving of consideration for tenure. Dr. Yun both challenges me and instills in me the courage to take risks. His personal approach has made me feel unique in my potential and on my journey, while his proverbial “door open” approach has allowed for a fluid exchange of dialogue, feedback, and knowledge expansion. He has been an exceptional mentor and I greatly appreciate having had the opportunity to work with him. While studying at Laurier, Dr. Yun’s guidance, patience, and support were fundamental to my success.

Please feel free to contact me at [burnett.emily.e@gmail.com](mailto:burnett.emily.e@gmail.com) and 519-573-6103, should you wish to speak further.

Sincerely,

Emily Burnett