

3-21-94

2248 Wellesley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(415) 858-2594

To whom it may concern;

I am writing a letter on behalf of Michael Smollens who I understand is applying for a job directing the Jazz Choir at Santa Clara University. I have known Michael for seven months while singing in his newly formed vocal and instrumental ensemble *MIRABAI*.

Michael is a gentle and sensitive director with an extensive knowledge of the repertoire, an extremely sound judgement of quality of material, and is an exciting composer in his own right. While being an instrumentalist of high calibre, he is also a singer of experience and has a highly perceptive ear to ensemble singing.

I have been particularly impressed by two qualities of Michael's. He is an outstanding teacher: he directs much creative energy to providing a step-by-step process to facilitate the acquiring of new skills. His techniques for training improvisation are outstanding. Secondly, he has an impeccable ear for rhythmic accuracy and sets extremely high standards: students would learn a great deal from him.

I do highly recommend Michael for this appointment. I believe that he is an unusually gifted director and has an enormous amount to offer the students in your program.

If I can be of any further assistance to you, please call me at (415)858-2594.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Boothroyd". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Jane Boothroyd, D.M.A.
Director of Music at St. Bede's Episcopal Church,
Menlo Park, California.