

Re: Letter of recommendation for saxophonist Michael Yapello

Dear Sirs:

My name is Dan Miller and I'm a professional jazz trumpet player who splits time between New York City and Florida. I'm a Yamaha Clinician and Performing Artist and I've toured and recorded with Harry Connick Jr., Maynard Ferguson, Tom Jones, Woody Herman and Wynton Marsalis and The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

I met Michael Yapello in May 2010 when I was the clinician for the Lee County (FL) All-County Jazz Band. I have had the pleasure of working with Michael as a private student since July 2010. He is a highly motivated student who's accomplished every task I've ever assigned him. Our lessons have focused primarily on music theory, harmony, ear training and jazz improvisation. The improvisational concepts of Barry Harris and David Baker as well as the music of Charlie Parker have been the crux of his study. Michael grasped these advanced concepts quickly and immediately put them to musical use. As my student, he has transcribed by ear, numerous solos of the jazz masters including Sonny Rollins, Miles Davis and Curtis Fuller, assimilating the language of the modern jazz vocabulary into his own improvisations. I feel his great respect for the tradition of jazz music is evident in his playing. He constantly works to improve his musical knowledge. His saxophone work has many excellent qualities, but most importantly, Michael swings and possesses an incredibly mature tone. Michael is prepared, I believe, to meet the immense challenges that Bill Kennedy, Leon Anderson and the Florida State University College of Music will present to him as an aspiring artist.

Personally, I find Michael to be a fine, young man of excellent character who is honest, forthright and intellectually inquisitive. It is his love of jazz music that motivates him to achieve and it will be this same passion that will drive him to musical success in the future.

I believe Michael Yapello to be a great asset to any program.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Respectfully,



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