From: ████████████████████████

To whom it may concern

I have been teaching instrumental music students of all ages for a little over 22 years. In the many secondary schools where I have taught, young students are recruited into the program with a demonstration, by the instrumental music teacher, of the instruments available for tuition. I have found that when these students see and hear how lovely these instruments look and sound, they are delighted and thrilled to be given the opportunity to take part in this wonderful journey of music making.

Through my experiences, I have observed that those students who learn an orchestral instrument generally do much better at school than those that do not. It teaches discipline and the students develop better organisational skills. Students have to practise each day to develop their playing skills, and this requires discipline.

I am also a licensed dog trainer, and through my experiences have discovered that being around animals relieves stress and helps to maintain a positive and relaxed frame of mind. This is also true of playing music.

Not only does listening to orchestral music relax the mind, but I have also found that playing an instrument does the same.

Students also gain a sense of achievement once they have developed certain skills in music. They can derive pleasure and great satisfaction through performance or even from sitting an exam.

Having the ability to play an instrument can also lead to exciting job opportunities. Students who play instruments leave school with attributes such as confidence, discipline, good social skills and a work ethic. I have had many students continue with music after leaving school (for instance, they have joined the Army Reserve band and or

pursued a teaching career. I was a very shy and quiet student, and learning to play an instrument helped me in all the areas listed above. It gave me the confidence and skills that I needed to go on and do what I am doing now – helping others achieve their dreams through music making.

Kim Ball

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