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Hiring Committee- School of Music & Performing Arts, University of Rhode Island  
Fine Arts Center, 105 Upper College Rd.  
Kingston, RI 02881

Dear Hiring Committee,

I am writing to express my genuine enthusiasm for the Assistant Professor of Music Composition position at the School of Music & Performing Arts, as advertised. With a Master's degree in Music Composition and a wealth of experience, including 11 years as a Clarinetist, Saxophonist, and Staff Arranger in the Navy Music program, I am eager to bring my unique blend of skills and passion to your esteemed institution. Some of the key requirements that I have extensive experience include:

- Versatile composer in both classical and commercial/jazz music.
- Highly proficient musician (clarinet, sax, piano).
- Fast and efficient at transposition and sight reading.
- Fast and efficient using Finale notation software.
- Comprehensive knowledge of music theory/ harmony.
- Exceptional improvisation skills.
- Proficient using Logic Pro X for recording and editing projects.
- Highly esteemed teacher in composition, clarinet, sax and piano.

My extensive background in teaching, coupled with 100+ arrangements, compositions, and transcriptions performed and recorded for live and virtual audiences, attests to my exceptional leadership and composition writing skills. As a Staff Arranger in the Navy Music program, I arranged for a diverse array of ensembles including Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Wind Quintet, Brass Quintet, Brass Band (pop/rock/jazz/r&b), Rock band, Clarinet Trio, Sax Quartet, Wind Dectet and Wind Octet. I was lead composer during the Virginia International Tattoo during 2018-2019 writing original soundtrack music that incorporated video and drill. Other collaborations include members of U.S. Navy Band in Washington D.C., U.S. Naval Academy, Navy Band Northwest, Fleet Forces Band, Navy Band Southwest and Navy Band Northeast.

Outside of my naval service, I have written and performed music for various other groups such as the University of Rhode Island Symphony, New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble, Southwestern College Mariachi Ensemble, San Diego Clarinet Society, San Diego Jazz Band, Rose Colored Glasses Rock Band,

Musica Villa Wind Ensemble, Kitsap Jazz Orchestra, Brigham Young University Wind Ensemble/Chamber Orchestra, University of Utah Wind Ensemble, Utah Wind Symphony, Utah Youth Orchestra, local Church Choirs, and various other small groups.

My commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive learning environment is reflected not only in my musical repertoire but also in my experiences participating in Navy weeks, where we engaged with communities, performed in cities with limited military presence, and contributed to recruiting efforts.

My proven track record of successful teaching from beginner level to collegiate level, strong interpersonal and communication skills, and willingness to collaborate with colleagues make me well-suited for the dynamic and collaborative atmosphere of the School of Music & Performing Arts at University of Rhode Island. I am excited about the prospect of contributing to the development of the music curriculum, participating in program assessment and improvement, and engaging with both local and national music communities.

Accolades achieved during my career include: Letter of Commendation from Vice Admiral Lindsey for outstanding work during the Virginia International Tattoo (composed original underscoring music- 2019), 5 Letters of Recommendation for outstanding arranging for Navy Wind Quintet and various other Navy ensembles (2015, 2016, 2022-2023), 3 Navy Good Conduct Awards (2016-present), Navy Blue Jacket of the Quarter Award (2016), Accelerated Advancement and Honor Graduate at Navy School of Music (2013), State Alternate Winner for Music Teachers National Association (2011), Principal Clarinet with the BYU Chamber Orchestra and Wind Symphony (2007-11), winner of the concerto competition for Brigham Young University's Wind Ensemble performing for international tours in Japan and South Korea (2009), and winner of the concerto competition for Jordan District Symphony Orchestra (2003).

Please visit my composition portfolio for examples of my work at:  
<https://www.justinlaukatmusic.com>

Thank you for considering my application. I am eager to discuss how my experience and passion align with the goals of your department. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to the rich musical legacy of the University of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Justin Laukat

**JUSTIN LAUKAT- TEACHING STATEMENT** As a candidate for the position of Assistant Professor of Music Composition at the University of Rhode Island, I am deeply committed to promoting equity, inclusion and diversity in my creative and pedagogical practice. The following are ways in which I will enforce equity and inclusion and diversity in my teaching:

-Involving students and faculty in a collaborative music making process. This includes various steps such as deciding what structure or form to use, what styles are being employed, instrumentation is being used and various composition methods such as using DAW software, improvisation, playing instruments, singing, recording, etc. As students and faculty share their diverse talents, everyone involved will be better equipped in navigating various aspects of composition.

-Create an inclusive environment where students from all backgrounds feel valued, respected, and empowered to express themselves authentically through music. To accomplish this, I will encourage students to share how their background has influenced their creation in music.

-I believe every student should have access to music education regardless of financial constraints and lack of resources. I aim to break these barriers by providing scholarships, grants and financial aid to students in need.

-Expose students to a wide range of musical influences from around the world in order to broaden their creative palette beyond their own cultural background. To accomplish this, I will explore different composition techniques and sounds with students and help them to incorporate them into their own compositions.

-Mentorship from all levels is crucial to students success including faculty to student as well as student to student. I believe in empowering students to develop and use their own voice as well as technical and conceptual skills to bring their musical creations to life. The instruction I provide will give students the opportunity to utilize all the resources available to them including their peers, books/publications, podcasts, recordings/recording equipment, guest artist lectures and coaching to allow students to ask questions and get feedback on their work.

-Foster a sense of belonging and community within the School of Music by engaging in efforts to recruit. To accomplish this, I will encourage students to seek out their friends in the community to participate in studio composition recitals as well as “new music” ensembles where students/faculty/community engage in music creation through improvisation and collaboration. I will also seek out local schools and provide master classes in improvisation for both classical and jazz students.

-Adjust teaching styles to accommodate students cultural practices and celebrate their cultural identity. Students should feel comfortable to express their cultural identity whether it be through music, dress or appropriate social norms.

-Use pronouns consistent with students wishes and respect students of all different orientations. Discrimination of any kind including gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religious beliefs, political status/views and social status will not be tolerated and disciplinary action will result for students who disregard this counsel.

-Students with disabilities will receive proper care and accommodations for them to perform their job successfully, whether it be providing them with mentoring resources, a quiet distraction free environment or providing them with proper equipment to complete tasks. The first step will be determining the students needs and advocating for them to receive the services they need.

-Students dress and appearance should be modest and respectful, not to distract or bring unneeded attention. If a student is uncomfortable with a given situation, I will ensure confidentiality is kept so that students feel comfortable sharing their concerns with the proper authority. This also applies to inappropriate behaviors such as unwanted touching, verbal/physical abuse or any other behavior that could negatively affect a students well being. Students should never feel forced or manipulated into doing things that go against their ethics and beliefs.

-I will ensure signs of viral illnesses don't make it to class. Students should show respect for others health by notifying teachers when they are sick and taking proper actions to get the care they need to get better.

-I believe attendance should be required for every class/activity. Any situations that prevent students from attending will require documentation. Students within the studio should be expected to attend the recitals of their peers. This will help foster unity, comradely, sense of belonging and improved mentorship.

-Students are expected to be honest in their work. Cheating and taking credit for someone else's work will not be tolerated. Students should cite sources when necessary and put their own thought into their work.

-I will strive for professional communication and expect the same from students and faculty by using respectful language and proper email etiquette.