

Dear Potter College Creative Arts Scholarship Committee:

My name is Nate Ridgeway, and I am pleased to write a letter of reference for Ryan Bridgforth.

I have known Ryan for four years now, in the capacity of a program called The Gilbert & Sullivan Homeschool Players (referred to hereafter as HSP). I would like to give you a bit of a backdrop as to the acumen of our program.

HSP is a light opera company that tackles exclusively the very difficult works of the 1880s & 1890s British playwrights and opera composers, Gilbert and Sullivan. Their work is no simple task to learn and perform, especially for high school age students. Our program is the premier musical arts program in the greater Chattanooga Valley community for students from any schooling capacity: public, private, or homeschooled. We choose to serve the homeschool niche, as the caliber of students we are able to attract is quite substantial.

During Ryan's time in our program, he has exemplified a high level of skill within multiple lanes.

Firstly, Ryan has developed as a solid singer, which was not his original interest with regard to HSP. And yet, his vocal skills have proven to be quite nice, as he has worked very hard to develop his voice.

Secondly, Ryan's initial interest with HSP was in the lane of our design team. During my six years of involvement with HSP, Ryan has displayed the highest level of design skill of any student that has come through our program. For the last four years, he has designed all of our marketing, all of our playbills, all of our ticketing, digital assets, and more. He is so good, that my wife and I have begun to hire Ryan for our own personal businesses. Frankly, he is more professional to work with than most adults we have utilized in the past for design work. We are happy to pay him a professional rate....he's just that good.

Thirdly, Ryan has excelled in his personal development and people skills. He works hard and is always on time with every project. He leads exceptionally when called upon, and yet plays “team” well when it is some other student’s turn to lead. He epitomizes the spirit of continued learning, and also knows how to pass on skills to other students seeking to learn. Everyone loves Ryan! He just has a fantastic personality.

Our program includes about 200 working hours of instruction over the course of an opera season, so it is quite a time commitment in addition to any student’s other endeavors. Ryan’s involvement, in particular, very well exceeds those hours, due to his additional design work outside the scope of our instruction time.

I heartily recommend Ryan Bridgforth for your scholarship for art and design students. If I can be of any further assistance, do not hesitate to reach me at 770.314.0133.

Best Regards,

Nate Ridgeway

Producer, Gilbert & Sullivan Homeschool Players