



MICHAEL AND ANNE GREENWOOD  
**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**  
College of Arts and Sciences

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Aug. 1, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Max Holm, who has served as an Adjunct Instructor of Jazz Piano at Oklahoma State University for the past three semesters, concluding in Spring 2025. Mr. Holm has consistently demonstrated the qualities of an outstanding educator, musician, and colleague.

During his time at OSU, Max taught Applied Jazz Piano to individual students, Jazz Composition and Arranging I, as well as Class Piano I and II for non-piano majors. He also worked with various jazz combos, focusing on both technical proficiency and creative expression. He consistently sought out ways to enhance the learning experience for his students.

In his Jazz Composition and Arranging course, Mr. Holm taught his students practical skills such as notation in MuseScore, foundational harmony, and advanced harmonic techniques. He also arranged for the student compositions to be performed and recorded by an ad hoc jazz ensemble, providing both composers and performers with valuable material for their portfolios.

Mr. Holm is respected and appreciated by students, as evidenced by positive course evaluations and the meaningful progress his students have made. This has resulted in students performing confidently in live settings. His work with a Jazz Piano Group Class for non-piano majors is particularly noteworthy—teaching students to competently perform blues, rhythm changes, jazz standards, and a modal jazz tune.

Max's syllabi and curriculum design are outstanding. He creates detailed, clearly structured syllabi that outline learning outcomes and thoughtful, sequential assignments that encourage growth and mastery. His dependability, professionalism, and willingness to take on extra responsibilities made him a valued member of our faculty.

In addition to his teaching, Max adjudicated for the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State Jazz Band for the past two years and performed alongside renowned jazz artists Terell Stafford and John Fedchock as part of the OSU jazz faculty. He toured with the OSU Jazz Orchestra, including a featured appearance at the 2024 Jazz Education Network (JEN) Conference in New Orleans. Max was also recognized as a 2024 Honoree by the OSU Edmon Low Library for his publication *Ace Your Sight-Reading Audition!* and his neo-classical album *Impasse*.

Max Holm is widely regarded as one of Oklahoma's top jazz pianists, and he remains active in professional performance and composition. Despite recent budget cuts forcing the elimination of several positions, including Mr. Holm's, I would gladly welcome him back to our faculty in the future should funding allow.

I give Mr. Holm my highest recommendation. Please feel free to contact me at [lucia.unrau@okstate.edu](mailto:lucia.unrau@okstate.edu) or 405-744-8998 if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Lucia Unrau'.

Dr. Lucia Unrau, NCTM  
Director, Michael and Anne Greenwood School of Music