

To Whom It May Concern,

From my education as a graduate from the Music Media program of UL Lafayette, I truly hold Dr. Robert Willey to be an outstanding professor, insightful mentor, and valuable friend. I began college as a music major feeling unsure about my career path, as many university students do. Not coming from a more traditional music background as many of the other students in my college, I felt a little out of place. After I began enrolling in the media focused classes, Dr. Willey helped me, along with other students in my situation, to gain more confidence in our abilities and find the unique skills that we could develop as we defined our career paths. His open-minded perspective and broad knowledge of media techniques allowed a wide spectrum of talents to grow in the classroom, while keeping students with varying backgrounds and music interests engaged. In one of our classes which focused on MIDI technology, students created projects pertaining to their genre and skill interests ranging from rap and hip hop beats to video game soundtracks and country songs.

Dr. Willey always went the extra mile to push for the best student resources and equipment, and during my time as a student we were able to obtain new professional level equipment to gain real experience with. Being the main technician for the recording studio, he also took time from his busy instructional schedule to insure the equipment was working properly. He also listened to student suggestions and ideas, making real changes happen to improve our education. Our studio space was across the hall from the band room, which created a lot of noise problems when we were trying to work on our projects, and after learning how this was affecting the students, he was able to help get new inner doors installed to address the problem. One thing I really valued about Dr. Willey is that he always encouraged and promoted extra-curricular student ideas and projects. He also helped students form a campus organization for recording, which functioned as an educational tool to show students the inner working of a recording studio and help raise money for studio necessities. Because of his initiative, students who were willing to put forth the effort were able to use the available resources to their full potential and gain priceless real-world experience in their potential field.

Job security is a justifiable fear among those interested in a career in the arts, and Dr. Willey was very aware of this. He sought out ways for students to connect with working professionals in music media related fields and arranged for guests to come speak with our classes. Once he arranged for students to visit and tour a recording studio that was being constructed locally, and after meeting the owner, I was able to have an internship in his studio the next summer where I learned the technicalities behind constructing a studio and met many local contacts that I would end up utilizing later. Dr. Willey was always willing to sit down and talk through any kind of issue and became a great mentor and friend for me throughout my music education. He would bring up new concepts and news in music to keep a truly stimulating environment academically, and would encourage the same from students. I was not always the most punctual student and loved to be a clown, but he was able to see through to my potential and truly try to encourage my growth as a professional. It is this talent that I believe is most important for any educator to have, and I am thankful to have had a teacher with such a gift be such a large part of my college career.

Sincerely,

Ben Sellers

January 11, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regard to Dr. Robert Willey's application for the Excellence in Teaching Award. When I was a graduate assistant, one distinct characteristic I remember about Dr. Willey's approach to teaching was that he was very goal oriented. Every lesson had a goal, an outcome that the students could achieve. Although this trait alone warrants recommendation for this award, I am more impressed with Dr. Willey's commitment to providing his students with hands-on experiences in music media.

Within the courses that Dr. Willey teaches, he incorporates a wide variety of up-to-date technological tools (sound boards, microphones, lighting instruments, video cameras, computers, recording software, etc.) with which the students are able to get hands-on experience both in and out of the classroom. Because he understands the importance of such experience in a technology-driven industry, Dr. Willey takes on the added responsibilities of grant writing so that he can get equipment for his students to use. He recognizes that with music media, learning through experience is invaluable, and thus encourages his students to learn outside the textbook.

Thank you; I appreciate your time and your consideration of Dr. Robert Willey for this award.

Sincerely,  
Missy Dupreast

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of Dr. Robert Willey who acted as a terrific mentor to me when I was a student in the Music Department at UL Lafayette. Over the course of my study, Dr. Willey had a hand in much of my education (with regard to the music industry) that made a difference in the outcome of my career as a music industry professional. In the interest of showing direct correlation between Dr. Willey's instruction and my various work after school, I'd like to list them individually highlighting the difference that Dr. Willey has made...

Dr. Willey (usually just "Doc" to me) was the instructor of the Music Business classes offered at the university. The class covered a wide variety of subjects and was a great stepping stone to understanding many principles of the industry as a whole. The one thing that stuck with me the most, was him saying that the number 1 rule of being a music business professional was to "Always Be Available!" Having worked solely in the music industry since graduating 8 years ago, I have always tried to keep this motto...It works! Also during this class, Dr. Willey helped clarify the role of promotion in the entertainment field, explaining concepts that would eventually be very useful when I was a promoter/ talent buyer for 307 Downtown, a popular music venue, for several years. Over the course of my employment there, we attained great success promoting events for many local regional and even national acts. I have also since worked for ASCAP as a licensing representative, dealing directly with the issues of copyright law, a concept that was introduced to me under Dr. Willey's instruction.

He also was instrumental for me in gaining a good understanding of live pa and general audio production techniques, which have been greatly useful for me in my career. While employed with 307 and after, I have utilized live pa skills learned under Doc's tutelage to create additional revenue by working as sound engineer. In the past, I have DOUBLED my pay by not only promoting an event or playing a gig, but personally running the sound for it as well.

Dr. Willey assisted me in creating independent study courses focusing on audio and video recording and editing, which at the time were not available in courses offered at the music school. Since graduating, I have used this acquired information as a co producer for a local television show highlighting the musical performances of local talent. I have also engineered and produced live and studio recordings for many local area acts, notably engineering the most recent double album by Keith Frank (Follow the Leader & To Be Perfectly Frank) and producing a dance remix of a song for Grammy Award winning Terrence Simien which was featured on his album Across the Parish Line.

Dr. Willey always had his hand in something, and chose often to use the local

Cajun and zydeco music scene as a basis for extracurricular projects. This was my first exposure to a lot of this culture and music, laying the groundwork for the understanding of “tools” necessary to work as a musician and engineer in zydeco music. Beside the aforementioned recordings, I have also worked as a guitar and bass player for Keith Frank and Grammy nominated Corey Ledet. It goes without saying that if I would not have been exposed to this genre, I would have potentially missed out on what is probably the most plentiful revenue stream as a musician in the area in which we live.

In closing, Dr. Willey’s direct, hands-on approach with regard to my education is greatly appreciated, as the extra steps he took with me were definitely above and beyond the call of duty. For these reasons and many more, I am honored and proud to act as a reference to the work and character of Dr. Robert Willey. I will be more than happy to speak with you at greater length on this subject if necessary and can be reached directly at 337-322-4726.

Best Regards.

Chad Fouquier

January 10, 2013

To Whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend Dr. Robert Willey as a candidate for The Excellence in Teaching Award at ULL. I have known Dr. Willey for 10 years. As a former student and graduate assistant at the UL School of Music, I have spent a considerable amount of time with Dr. Willey. One of the many characteristics prompting consideration for the award is the amazing humor of Dr. Willey. As a student, I found his class always interesting (even for an 8am class!). It is my opinion that the injection of humor by a professor helps to maintain the attention of students. Another strong characteristic is the vast knowledge of subjects taught by Dr. Willey. So many doors to the world of knowledge have been opened by the many lectures and workshops conducted by the candidate.

Furthermore, upon graduation, I was offered a position as a band director at a local high school. My experience was not in band directing, my experience was a jazz educator. Dr. Willey spent an enormous amount of time advising me of this difficult decision whether to take the job or not accept. Even today, I will call upon Dr. Willey for advice and he is ready to assist.

In that vein, I tender this letter of the highest recommendation on behalf of Dr. Robert Willey.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

In Education,

Clinton Jones,MM

Band Director  
Eunice High School,  
Professor of Music, Louisiana  
State University at Eunice.

January 11, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regard to Dr. Robert Willey's application for the Excellence in Teaching Award. When I was a graduate assistant, one distinct characteristic I remember about Dr. Willey's approach to teaching was that he was very goal oriented. Every lesson had a goal, an outcome that the students could achieve. Although this trait alone warrants recommendation for this award, I am more impressed with Dr. Willey's commitment to providing his students with hands-on experiences in music media.

Within the courses that Dr. Willey teaches, he incorporates a wide variety of up-to-date technological tools (sound boards, microphones, lighting instruments, video cameras, computers, recording software, etc.) with which the students are able to get hands-on experience both in and out of the classroom. Because he understands the importance of such experience in a technology-driven industry, Dr. Willey takes on the added responsibilities of grant writing so that he can get equipment for his students to use. He recognizes that with music media, learning through experience is invaluable, and thus encourages his students to learn outside the textbook.

Thank you; I appreciate your time and your consideration of Dr. Robert Willey for this award.

Sincerely,  
Missy Dupreast

To Whom It May Concern,

Dr. Willey has been one of the most inspirational teachers I have had the pleasure of knowing. In my time at ULL, Dr. Willey challenged me by pushing the boundaries of creativity and served as a profound source of knowledge to all his students. I am a proud alumni of ULL and the Music Media program, class of 2010.

I had several classes with Dr. Willey in the Music Media program which included Music Business, Introduction to MIDI, Live Sound Production, and Recording classes. Dr. Willey had a great way of assigning projects that implemented multiple techniques that we studied in his courses. Each project demanded thorough understanding of the subject matter and often required hard work and significant time to accomplish. Although demanding, the projects would capture all our attention and creativity in a fun learning experience that was truly effective.

Dr. Willey's efforts in improving our learning environment are fantastic. He has done so much for the music program through grants to purchase new technology that better our studios and offer new avenues for learning. We saw amazing improvements to our studios and acquired professional equipment that enabled us to remain current in the music technology world. In my time at ULL, Dr. Willey was able to get us a grant for a premier recording studio session at Dockside Studios which was an incredible learning experience for all those involved. The recording session also created multiple real-life scenario projects for us to learn from. Outside of the classroom, his work in his own studies of ear health also connected students with audiologists for professional ear plugs and he has done great work to bring awareness to the community for protecting hearing.

Through assignments, Dr. Willey kept the students involved in live performances by recording and live sound. This provided other students and organizations to have their performances documented and peace of mind for a smooth performance. Dr. Willey was often involved in these assignments to offer more teaching outside and mentorship outside of the classroom. Most senior recitals and performances in Angelle Hall were professionally recorded through this way of work.

After graduation, Dr. Willey was extremely helpful in finding employment for me. He assisted me in polishing my resume to be marketable to the jobs I was applying for as well as networking to get me in touch with employers. Through his efforts, Dr. Willey got me in touch a previous ULL alumni at a major music technology manufacturer which in turn got me a great job. He has also contacted me to help out another alumni get a job with our company and I think he has gone above and beyond to ensure security in our futures. I am truly grateful for what Dr. Willey has done for me.

In closing, I would like state that I have never had a teacher quite as unique as Dr. Willey. His positive attitude towards music technology is infectious and he has a tremendous influence on his students. It was a great experience learning in his classroom and working beside him on projects. I cannot think of another professor more deserving of this recognition than Dr. Willey.

Best regards,  
Keith Stewart  
inMusic Brands  
Sales Manager  
985-290-3998  
kstewart@numark.com

December 4, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I graduated from University of Louisiana at Lafayette as the outstanding graduate of General Studies of Fall 2005. My goal was to study Cajun and Creole culture deeply, and to eventually introduce such a rich culture to the Japanese people. I owe my achievement at UL to Dr. Robert Willey because he helped me greatly throughout my college life, and I really appreciate his supporting me.

When I was trying to enroll at UL, I had some problems to choose my course because of my career and ability in English. Dr. Willey carefully guided me in the choice of my course, and he gave me a lot of great suggestions. Moreover, after I decided to major in General Studies, he talked with the Dean in order to get an exception to university policy against pursuing a second bachelor's degree so that I could enroll. As Dr. Willey has taught in Argentina and Brazil, his sensitivity to international students helped me very much.

I took Dr. Willey's classes in Music Industry, Audio Recording Techniques I & II, and Live Sound and Digital Editing. They were so practical that I am immediately using the skills, which I learned in his classes, in my projects such as music recording, producing documentaries, and writing. Even though I was not a music major student, his classes were very effective for me. I found it easy to follow his presentations even without having taken related courses. His instruction was so clear that I could understand it, even though I am not a native speaker.

Meanwhile, Dr. Willey's digital media research and productions are so great, and many of them have supported the local Cajun and Creole music scene, especially his DVD "From La La To Zydeco", which was praised by renowned folklorist Nick Spitzer. The practical experience I obtained by working as an assistant on his projects helped with my own projects documenting Louisiana culture. Other students are also effectively using the knowledge, which they learned from Dr. Willey, in their jobs at radio stations, recording studios, music clubs, and many other places.

Now Dr. Willey has a couple of new Internet projects, podcasting and Second Life which will promote UL, local music, and many other local cultural entities worldwide. Moreover, many community members trust Dr. Willey as a culturally-sensitive music media specialist, so they give their permission to allow his students to record their performances, something they might not do with other people. Dr. Willey should keep contributing to UL and the local communities—he is an important member of the UL staff helping students, teachers, and the local community.

Sincerely,

Jiro "Jireaux" Hatano



29.12.07  
Strasbourg, France

Obj: WILLEY Robert  
Letter of recommendation

During my undergraduate studies in music theory/composition at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, I have had contact with Dr. Willey both as a student in his classes as well as working with him or his music media students in projects outside of my own courses. With Dr. Willey I studied musical form/analysis and well as 20<sup>th</sup> century harmony. As a student in his classes I felt very free to ask questions and his classes were always understandable and interesting. His sight-reading skills at the keyboard are not only impressive, but Dr. Willey's capacity to readily perform relevant musical examples really facilitates the students' ability to grasp the subject matter of the course.

His acquaintance of a wide variety of musical repertoire makes him a very valuable and versatile asset to the faculty. My classmates and I studied and analysed music ranging from baroque fugues to more modern composers, such as Penderecki.

While studying at the UL School of Music, I decided to independently record and produce two solo guitar albums. During the production for both of the recording projects I worked closely with either Dr. Willey or his students. Dr. Willey was instrumental to the success of the recordings in that he took the idea as an opportunity to allow his students to put their skills to work in a real environment and in so doing, helped me achieve a final product which otherwise may not have been possible.

I feel that the music media department at UL Lafayette owes a lot to Dr. Willey. He is a person that spends an incredible amount of time working one-on-one with media students and really makes an great effort to make the most out of the minimal funding afforded to the music media department. Due to the large amount of hands-on work in the studio, I think that his students are capable of accomplishing a lot of practical tasks related to modern day demands in the business of music media and I think Dr. Willey's supervision and moral support help the students reach their full potential.

What I appreciated most of Dr. Willey was will willingness to spend time outside of class to make sure that every student understood what was happening in class and was able to follow. I think all of his students would agree that he is one of the busiest faculty members, but at the same time, one of the most accessible. Considering his diverse musical background, practical skills and know-how, as well as his down-to-earth manner of teaching and working with students, I would recommend Dr. Willey for a tenure position without hesitation.

If you wish to contact me for further information or for any reason, I can be reached at:

Nathan Rabalais  
17A rue du GAL PICQUART

67000 STRASBOURG  
FRANCE

Telephone: +33 (0)6 98 81 44 91

E-mail: [njrabalais@earthlink.net](mailto:njrabalais@earthlink.net)