

Reference Letter for Maryna Borsuk

1 January 2022

Writing letters for staff who have supported education in the arts becomes a celebration when I review the achievements and dedication of teachers like Maryna Borsuk. Looking back at my notes and recalling some of the highlights does not really encompass all the positive change Maryna contributed to countless students, their parents and the colleagues in her orbit; she changed lives and futures, and built respect for music, guiding all to the importance of commitment, service and the joy of music and art in their lives. This is what Maryna did for Trinity College London, for Yamaha and for the schools she worked in and supported in the UAE.

I am very happy to write this letter in support of one of my key educators in the UAE. Maryna worked for me in several different businesses in Dubai, UAE starting in 2005. Most recently Maryna was a teacher and teacher trainer at Vocal Studio Orpheus, which is the authorized service provider for Trinity College London exams in the UAE and Middle East, from 2019 to 2021 when she relocated to Poland.

I first met Maryna a few years after she moved to Dubai and she joined Popular Music Institute, owned by the Thomson Group, as a piano teacher. I was the director of the school, manager of Thomson Music retail outlets and Pure Music wholesale company.

When we opened a new school and showroom called Sing and Swing in 2007, I recommended that Maryna join the staff at what would become the largest Yamaha School in the Middle East. Maryna started as a teacher, then became the senior teacher and qualified as a certified instructor for the Yamaha method. When I left Sing and Swing to work full time for Trinity College London, Maryna became the Sing and Swing school coordinator for many years.

In 2019 Maryna joined a small group of dedicated music educators at Vocal Studio Orpheus, where she taught her own students, accompanied for exams and competitions, and offered training and support for teachers preparing candidates for Trinity College London exams and for teachers expanding their expertise in group education.

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Maryna was never satisfied to just 'do her job', she was always searching for opportunities to develop new skills and learn new methods of teaching during her many years in Dubai. Although she already held a Master's degree in music performance and teaching, she completed LTCL and FTCL performance diplomas with Trinity College London, then completed an advanced certificate with Yamaha. She also trained as a certified instructor in the Yamaha method, teaching groups of young learners and providing training and teaching support for other teachers at Sing and Swing.

It is a testament to Maryna's professionalism and unwavering commitment to music and the arts that while she was searching for ways to increase her own skills and knowledge, she was also generous in her willingness to support other teachers, whether in teaching methodology, exam preparation or performance skills. Her impact on music education in UAE and beyond has been significant and will ripple through the lives of her students and colleagues for many years to come.

If any further information is required, please contact me.



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