

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives us great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Cheryl Saks. We have known Cheryl for over ten years. A friend recommended her to our family as a voice and piano teacher for our youngest daughter Christine. Christine was in the third grade and interested in singing lessons. We were very impressed with Cheryl and her energy. Christine was very happy working with Cheryl but was more interested in singing than piano lessons. Cheryl made Christine understand that singing and piano lessons went hand-in-hand. Cheryl stressed that by learning to play the piano Christine would become a more accomplished singer. She was right. Christine went on to many NYSSMA competitions for both piano and voice doing extraordinarily well in both areas.

Cheryl was very encouraging and supportive. During this same period our older daughter Tricia, who had been taking piano lessons for two years at a local piano store, was becoming disinterested and wished to quit piano lessons. After a few vocal lessons with Cheryl, Tricia's interests were renewed and her desire to play piano returned. Tricia continued lessons with Cheryl for six years and sang with a chorus for her four years of college. Both Christine's and Tricia's experiences have been rewarding. They have greatly benefited from learning with Cheryl, developing stronger personalities for themselves while providing many moments of pride and enjoyment for us.

Cheryl furnished a creative and nurturing environment. She provided many opportunities for her students to display their talents. Cheryl had regular recitals for her students to show their parents what they had learned. The winter holiday concerts, whether performed as a full choir, a traveling chorus or individual performances, were especially memorable as they demonstrated Cheryl's dedication to exposing her students to many different aspects of music. Her spring recitals, which culminated the students preparation for NYSSMA, provided encouragement and confidence in their performances. The June recitals gave the students a chance to explore their own interests. Often these recitals were enhanced with performances of previously graduated students, students who Cheryl kept in touch with even as they attended college. Many times Cheryl performed with her students, regardless of their age or ability. It was wonderful for the younger students to observe first hand how well they could play or sing with time and dedication.

We have felt very fortunate having found Cheryl Saks. She is a very warm and caring person. She is an excellent teacher who inspires her students to achieve. Cheryl has become a part of our family, a good friend to our children, but not least of all a crafter of talents that will long enhance the enjoyment of life that music brings to Christine and Tricia. We, without hesitation, strongly recommend Cheryl Saks.

With Sincere Appreciation,

*Robert Perry*  
*Betty Perry*