



The CLARICE

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm and pride that we present our statement of support in regard to Sarah Ramson's application for admission. As the Director of Learning and Engagement at National Philharmonic (NatPhil), I have had the distinct privilege of witnessing Sarah's growth, dedication, and remarkable character through her participation in our Youth Mentorship Program, which operates in partnership with the National Orchestra Institute + Festival (NOI+F) at the University of Maryland, College Park through the presenting program at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Sarah has been an exceptional presence in both programs within the past three seasons.

Over the course of three years, Sarah demonstrated an unwavering commitment to every aspect of our programs. She was a consistently strong student who showed up to all of our Concert Immersive Events, all opportunities provided by the YMP program during NOI+F, and actively engaged in rehearsals, performances, workshops, and every required event the programs entailed. Her attendance and follow-through were remarkable, but what truly set Sarah apart was the quality of her presence: she arrived prepared, she listened attentively, and she brought genuine curiosity and energy to every setting.

Sarah's personality is genuinely warm and engaging. She made everyone around her feel welcome with her positive spirit, and she is a natural community-builder when in a group. She is hardworking and self-motivated — qualities that are evident not only in her musical development but in how she conducts herself as a young professional. Whenever we called upon students to volunteer in various capacities, Sarah was always among the first to raise her hand. She collaborated effectively with program faculty, NatPhil staff, mentors she had who were part of NOI+F, and her fellow students alike, consistently demonstrating teamwork, adaptability, and grace.

One of the qualities we most admire in Sarah is her ability to forge genuine, lasting connections with her peers. Though Sarah is a homeschooled student, she thrived socially within our program communities and built meaningful relationships with students from a wide range of backgrounds. So great was the impression she made that she was personally invited by the Northwestern High School — one of NatPhil's key partner schools within its program — to perform alongside their school orchestra. This kind of organic invitation, born entirely out of mutual respect and admiration from her peers, speaks volumes about who Sarah is as both a musician and a person.

Sarah also represented NatPhil at several of its community engagement events including the 2024 Gala, and the 20th Anniversary Event of the Music Center at Strathmore in February 2025. Her success in these settings was twofold: she performed with skill and poise, and she engaged with patrons, donors, and members of NatPhil's Board of Directors with a maturity and warmth that far exceeded her years. She understood instinctively that music-making extends beyond the stage, and she embodied that understanding with every interaction. On behalf of both National Philharmonic and the National Orchestral Institute + Festival, we are immensely proud of Sarah Ramson, and we believe with full confidence that her future is extraordinarily bright — not only as a gifted musician, but as the kind of thoughtful, compassionate, and driven human being that makes every community she joins a better place.

With warm regards,

Kimia Hesabi

[Kimia Hesabi \(Jun 10, 2026 14:57:40 EDT\)](#)

Dr. Kimia Hesabi

Director of Learning and Engagement
National Philharmonic

Jane Hirshberg

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Program Director,
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The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center










Recommendation Letter- Sarah Ramson

Final Audit Report

2026-06-10

Created:	2026-06-09
By:	Jane Hirshberg (janeh22@umd.edu)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAbVrWgu--Wwny0lbi1ZxniODFBUEExXcRx

"Recommendation Letter- Sarah Ramson" History

-  Document created by Jane Hirshberg (janeh22@umd.edu)
2026-06-09 - 8:04:48 PM GMT- IP address: 129.2.89.114
-  Document emailed to khesabi@nationalphilharmonic.org for signature
2026-06-09 - 8:06:35 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by khesabi@nationalphilharmonic.org
2026-06-10 - 6:54:54 PM GMT- IP address: 73.134.245.156
-  Signer khesabi@nationalphilharmonic.org entered name at signing as Kimia Hesabi
2026-06-10 - 6:57:38 PM GMT- IP address: 73.134.245.156
-  Document e-signed by Kimia Hesabi (khesabi@nationalphilharmonic.org)
Signature Date: 2026-06-10 - 6:57:40 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 73.134.245.156 - Signature Appearance Selected: TYPE
-  Document emailed to Jane Hirshberg (janeh22@umd.edu) for signature
2026-06-10 - 6:57:42 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Jane Hirshberg (janeh22@umd.edu)
2026-06-10 - 6:57:51 PM GMT- IP address: 66.102.8.174
-  Document e-signed by Jane Hirshberg (janeh22@umd.edu)
Signature Date: 2026-06-10 - 6:58:31 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 129.2.89.211 - Signature Appearance Selected: IMAGE
-  Agreement completed.
2026-06-10 - 6:58:31 PM GMT