

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter to state my formal application for the Berklee Achievement Scholarship (BAS). I am a current scholarship recipient but I am in need of extra funds to ensure that I can continue my academic career here at Berklee. This is my third time applying for a BAS scholarship.

For financial reasons, I took last semester off from Berklee and moved home. My family was no longer able to pay my tuition and I was unsure if I would be able to return to finish my degree. I worked two jobs all summer and saved as much as I could. I took a few courses at the local college in the fall with the intention of hopefully transferring them back to Berklee. I was able to return this semester, but the money I saved has been spent on tuition, fees, books, rent and utilities and I am now financially back to where I was last spring when I made the decision to leave Berklee. I have student loans and work 20 hours a week to help my parents as much as I can but I would be immensely appreciative of extra help from the college.

Since my first semester I have been actively involved in the school community. I am a member of Jams @ Berklee, MENC, Concert Choir at Berklee, and the Deans Club and I was the Secretary of the Musical Theater Club up until leaving the college last spring. I worked for the Professional Writing Division performing student works for Michael Wartofsky's Musical Theater Writing Classes and as a Peer Advisor through the Counseling and Advising Center for 3 semesters. I currently work as a voice and choir teacher at the Berklee City Music Preparatory Academy through the Presidents Office of Education Outreach, where I have been working for 2 years. In addition to my extracurricular activities and student employment positions, I was a Big Sister at the Hurley School in South Boston through the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston and a Mentor through the Berklee City Music Mentoring Program for 2 semesters.

I am in my seventh semester of study here at Berklee and I am pursuing a Dual Major in Music Education and Contemporary Writing and Production. My short-term plans include continuing to write a cappella arrangements and choral compositions which I hope to get published and begin marketing to schools, and continuing to gig with my band around Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts. Long term I would like to graduate with a degree in Music Education and Contemporary Writing and Production and begin my career as a music educator at the high school level. Eventually I would like to move to New York City to acquire my masters degree in Musical Theater Performance from NYU and begin auditioning for shows while continuing to write and arrange my own choral music.

I feel that I have improved both as a musician and as an educator since entering Berklee. I have always loved the idea of teaching and working with kids, but due to my attendance at Berklee I have been getting more and more teaching jobs recently. Over the summer of 2008 I acquired my first private voice students and made immediate headway with them as a result of what I learned in my first year of study in the voice department. I remain in close contact with each of them even as I am back at school, and I occasionally go back to CT to do sight singing group classes to help prepare them for regional auditions. I was also hired as the Vocal Music Director for my former high schools productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Urinetown* and

the Brookfield Theater for the Arts productions of *Pippin* and *Once on This Island*. The music was extremely challenging both to learn myself and to teach. Without the techniques that I learned in music education class and also all of my ear training and private instruction courses I would not have been equipped to handle this big responsibility.

Throughout high school and the beginning of my Berklee career I struggled with finding the right genre for my voice. I have always been a musical theater singer but I wanted to try something different. After 4 semesters of exploring genres, I feel that I finally found my voice while studying R&B with Jeff Ramsey. I feel that this is one of my biggest accomplishments at Berklee.

I have strived to achieve near perfection in my academics here at Berklee. I have maintained a steady 3.856 GPA with a full course load and am never happy with any grade lower than an "A". I like to think that my high GPA and consistent Deans List status are a reflection of my hard work, determination and willingness to do anything that is asked of me. I know that there is much that I still need to learn from Berklee and I look forward to the rest of my time here. I hope that you will strongly consider my application for extra scholarship funding so that I can continue studying toward the degrees that I am working so hard to achieve. Thank You.

Sincerely,
Jaimie LaPine