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1420 11th Ave SE
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Dear TCI Foundation Scholarship Committee,

It is my absolute pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Benjamin Wieland, one of the most exceptional students and musicians I've had the honor of working with. Over the course of his high school career, Ben has consistently demonstrated not only extraordinary musical talent but also unwavering dedication, leadership, and character.

Mr. Wieland is an *incredible* violist. He has been selected for the All-State Orchestra for three consecutive years, and earned the prestigious position of first stand this past year. His musicality, maturity, and professionalism are evident. Ben tried out for a huge feature his freshman year (Vocalize by Rachmanninoff) and easily received the solo. He played it and performed it with such beauty and technique that I knew he was going to be a player to make a huge impact on our program.

Beyond his technical skills, Mr. Wieland is a true leader. He has been one of the top student leaders in our orchestra, guiding his peers with humility, confidence, and kindness. He regularly volunteers his time performing in chamber quartets at high-profile events, including Mayo Clinic galas and graduations, helping to raise funds and awareness for our orchestra program. These are long, demanding events, but Ben always shows up with a positive attitude and deep sense of purpose.

What makes Benjamin truly remarkable is his resilience and well-rounded nature. A gifted athlete, he faced a major life challenge early in high school when he was diagnosed with anemia. This dramatically affected his ability to compete in the sports he loved, including cross country, basketball, and track. Rather than letting this setback define him, Ben shifted his energy and focus with incredible maturity, pouring himself into his music. That decision only strengthened his character and deepened his musicianship.

Academically, artistically, and athletically, Benjamin stands out as a student who gives his all. He is thoughtful, self-disciplined, and compassionate. Ben is a true team player and someone others naturally look up to. In short, Mr. Wieland is the kind of student who makes a lasting impact on his community and who will thrive in any college environment. Ben is our nominee for the Triple A award- a student who thrives in academics, arts, and athletics, and this shows how incredibly well rounded he is.

I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically recommend Benjamin Wieland for admission to your institution. He is an exceptional young man with limitless potential, and I have no doubt he will bring the same passion, leadership, and excellence to your program as he has to ours. Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss Ben further. I would be happy to do so!

Katie Kuisle

Mayo High School Orchestra