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To Whom It May Concern:

In March of 2014, we were fortunate to benefit from the talented, educated, and eclectic musicianship of Switchback, the duo of Marty McCormick and Brian Fitzgerald. During a three-day residency, Marty and Brian shared their musical expertise in several programs designed to help our students gain a deeper appreciation of music. The great majority of our students were engaged in the sessions they attended, whether they were creating art to Switchback's live music; writing songs of their own with Switchback's help; actively listening to narrative and songs describing the evolution of Irish and other genres of music; or singing, dancing, and enjoying the dynamic music offered by Marty and Brian in daily concerts.

At Hope, we serve individuals with varied developmental differences, most of whom share a love of the magic of music. As a music therapist who works closely with these students on a daily basis, my hope was that Marty and Brian would actively engage our students in a way that would educate as well as entertain. Marty and Brian accomplished such engagement at a level that exceeded my expectations, and their in-the-moment involvement allowed our students to learn and attend with joy. It is my professional opinion that live residency programming such as this, provided by quality musicians like Marty and Brian, is an excellent way to provide musical growth and enjoyment for many.

Cordially,

Karen L. Herzel, MS, MM, MT-board certified  
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*The Hope Institute supports children and families to reach optimum growth, independence, and joy.*

The Hope Institute is Accredited by The Council on Quality and Leadership Supports for People with Disabilities and by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.