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September 16, 2019

## To Whom It May Concern:

This is to highly recommend Mike Ponella, who is a first-rate trumpet player. I have worked with him in the past on productions of CAN CAN and ANNIE at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Milburn, NJ (he is a favorite there, and for good reason). In addition, I also conducted him on the Broadway production of END OF THE RAINBOW, which was a dramatic and very exposed show for each of the band members. As is always the case with Mike, he was completely prepared and did a terrific job. Mike is a consummate musician who is constantly listening and bringing the expertise of a born collaborator to the room every single time. He has a beautiful rich tone, understands various styles (I cannot emphasize the importance of this, which only a truly experienced player can understand), and a born soloist as well, which makes him ideal as a lead trumpet player.

On top of all that, he is conscientious and courteous of those he works with. He is a total professional, and incidentally, one heck of a nice guy. Mike would be an asset to any pit orchestra, or any musical ensemble, period. I look forward to collaborating with him again, and I recommend him with pleasure.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,