

My Dear Mr. Barg,

I wish to start by telling you that the past nine days have been the most powerful nine days of my life. I have gone to so many camps and I have always gone away wishing that I had experienced some inspirational moment but I never did.

Playing music with you is an inspirational moment every time I have the pleasure.

I remember the first time I met you I thought to myself, "Here we go again, some guy who will yell, scream, nag us about this and that..." but instead when you raised your baton, I played music for the first time in my life.

I met you and in the process of getting to know you, I got to know me. You made me realize that Ashley is confident, smart, passionate, powerful, and talented. You made me realize that Ashley can make a mistake and the second hand keeps ticking, life goes on, and there's no shame in that mistake.

You also showed me that Ashley can change the world. I always could change the world but I didn't know it until you showed me that part of myself. I thought that maybe the world would be a better place if there were more Mr. Barg's but I realized that would not solve anything. What the world needs is more people who love life as much as you do, who love people as

And find a way to combine all 3.
The world needs more people who allow
their change muscle to grow and you have
shown me that I am a better person know
what I know now about how to change
the world around me even though I am one
person. Thank you for being that person in my
life who showed me something great.

As I was playing the Adagio with
you ~~I~~ thought, "This is how life is supposed
to be lived. This is what life sounds like.
And that experience will be engrained in
my memory and you at the podium with
your big goofy grin that warms so many
people's hearts, waving your arms and
living to the music.

My hat is off to you. This is your
standing ovation from me to you. Read this
whenever you need a standing ovation because
I am not the only one.

With much Gratitude,

Ashley Barnes