

To whom it may concern

Honestly, what teenager wants to get up at 7 am in the middle of the summer? One who has orchestra rehearsal with David Barg first thing in the morning does. I have had the privilege to work with Mr. Barg for several years at the summer music institute Sound Encounters in Ottawa, Kansas. While there, I played in a string orchestra conducted by him and I took his conducting class. He is one of the most inspiring people I have ever met. He would encourage all of the students to “Get out of your comfort zone!” I got way out of my comfort zone when I took Mr. Barg’s conducting class. As a kid, it was very hard for me to stand up in front of my peers and conduct, but Mr. Barg did not let any of us stop giving our very best effort.

Another thing I remember about Mr. Barg is his ability to facilitate group energy and a sense of community in an orchestra. Whenever a section leader had a comment to make, he would have them stand up, face their section, and say it. He would have all the section leaders introduce themselves to each person in the section. Mr. Barg taught all of us how to play together, how to breathe together, and how to move together. He showed us the importance of applauding for fellow young musicians- for example, when someone finished conducting a piece in conducting class or gave an answer to a question. This helped me, as I know it helped all of the other students, feel more connected to each other member of the orchestra., and it made orchestra a more fun experience.

Something I particularly admire about Mr. Barg is his attitude. He is always so encouraging towards every student; he makes everyone feel important. He shares his love of music and life with all of us students. In doing so, he has gained our utmost respect.

Jennifer Carpenter