

To the Powers that Be:

Greetings! My name is Sascha Groschang, I'm a professional cellist and I'd like to share a little about how David Barg has inspired me as a musician and person. I first met David 17 years ago, when he came to my performing arts middle school in Kansas City, MO, to give a symposium for the orchestra. Later, I worked with David many additional times at various summer camps and workshops throughout the Midwest. Before meeting David Barg, I (along with the rest of the orchestra) was so intimidated and nervous about this giant guy (he's like 6"5') from New York City coming to conduct our measly little school orchestra.

However, almost instantly, we were put to ease by his openness, warmth, and sincere love of music. He made a few jokes to make us all a little more comfortable, but right away, he dove into the music on a level that I had never previously experienced. He treated the music in a serious, respectful way at a profound level, demanding engagement with not only the technical elements of the score, but more importantly, the musical and emotional impact of the music. He treated us as adults, demanding intelligence, thoughtfulness and a passionate reaction to the music that brought out a sound that I had never before heard in our little ensemble. As the years went on and I worked with David more, I was on a more advanced level for my age group and he went above and beyond with his time and energy to nurture and inspire me as an individual. He would work with me separately, have meetings with my parents about my future and connect me with older musicians.

David Barg not only inspired me (and so many others) in many musical ways, but has also helped me in many practical ways that I still use today. He is kind and friendly, yet he demands a professionalism, even in children, that prepares them for success (in whatever field they choose, not just music). He'd have the ensemble sit up straight, with no talking, no gum and no complaints. He treated us with politeness and courtesy and he expected the same treatment in return.

I remember as a kid, I was kind-of a little snob about being a little ahead of some of the other students, so I liked to let everyone know by practicing my concerti loudly during breaks. After one of the first instances of working with him, Mr. Barg kindly pulled me aside after one rehearsal. He explained to me that he knew that I was excited about music, but he had me really think about how my actions were making the other members of the ensemble feel when I played my solo pieces fortissimo. Our little talk really made me realize how important it was (and is) to consider your fellow musician's feelings. That really stuck with me, and I believe has helped me to be successful not just as a musician working with other musicians, but as a businessperson and as a compassionate human being.

All in all, I believe David Barg is a great educator, musician and inspiration. He would be a great asset to any music program. He treats young people the same way he treats music - with respect, dignity, professionalism and (best of all) JOY!!!!

Sascha Groschang, cellist
www.cellolady.com
saschagroschang@gmail.com