

To The Committee Members In Search Of A Music Director & Conductor:

My name is Treesa Gold. I make my living as a violinist with the Richmond Symphony and am writing you on behalf of one of the most wonderful, talented, inspiring and sincere people I have ever known, David Barg.

I am 28, now, and I was just 13 when I met Mr. Barg, so our friendship is one that is 15 years in the making. When I met David I was a very quiet, courteous, careful, self-conscious girl with wide-eyes and a thirst for learning. I wanted to grab music and life and take it all in, but I was not quite able to because of personal restraint. Mr. Barg took me under his wing that summer and helped me to start hammering cracks into the shell that I was keeping myself in. I am a different person, now, because of that summer festival. There is no doubt in my mind that because of the influence of this truly phenomenal human being, I am the vibrant, energetic, expressive musician/person that I am today.

These are my favorite things about Mr. Barg that make him the incredibly effective conductor that he is:

The Energy Of The Orchestra - It is a jaw-dropping, breath-taking experience to be anywhere in the hall of a Barg-with-youth-orchestra experience. I remember it from being a part of it in the orchestra at 13 (and many subsequent summers) and I now experience it by listening in the audience as faculty at the same summer festival. It's electric. It's something that only comes when every single person on that stage is completely committed to the moment and is giving 100% to the music. Nothing matters in that moment except for art. That is it. You could die happy knowing that you gave your all for something worthwhile. I have been to many orchestra festivals and have played in many great college orchestras and such, so I can say with much certainty that this level of dedication that Barg draws out of the orchestra is a rare thing indeed. It is magic. It is life. It is memorable for everyone involved for the rest of their lives. What a gift it is to the youth involved in whatever orchestra is lucky enough to have David as a conductor!

Rehearsals - So how does this guy get these kids to play with such enthusiasm? Now, that is fun to watch, as well. It comes from Mr. Barg knowing how to get students of those very tricky teen years to let go of inhibitions and restrictions that keep them from playing the music that is already inside of them. He has them sway from side to side, stomp on the floor - feel the music, basically! He tells them, "Don't worry about if you look dorky! Look! I'm a big goof! Just let go!" and given some time, they start to let go and find that there was so little to be afraid of in the first place and that when they are able to let go, the musical experience is so much richer!

Personal Concern - Kids can tell fake. Kids know when a conductor smiles at them but doesn't mean it. Mr. Barg is genuine. What you see is what you get. He wears his emotions on his sleeve and by doing so lets the kids know that it is okay to be themselves. Deep down in his very deepest of hearts, and with every fiber of his being, he wants what is best for the kids that he conducts. He wants them to live up to their full potential and knows how to help them get to that potential. Students sense this and can tell that his concern is real.

Expectations - I think one of the most important aspects of an educator is to know how much students can achieve. They must never set the bar too low. I have seen many a conductor or teacher in my day that has thought that because they were conducting/teaching "kids" that certain things were not possible. The kids can rarely go beyond what the educator expects of them. When it is David Barg that is conducting/teaching, the bar is set incredibly high and the students always rise to the occasion far surpassing what any of them even thought was possible. Whether it's teaching them how important it is to bring a pencil to rehearsal and write things in their parts or it's showing them how important it is to listen to the other musicians as they're making music, the students quickly become capable of achieving the skills they will need for the rest of their orchestral careers.

Love For Music - At this point, it probably goes without saying that David Barg has a passion for music. He has a passion for educating, conducting, and also for music. The music is what brings it all together and unites everyone. He loves the classics and also constantly keeps an eye out for undiscovered classics just waiting to be played.

As I mentioned, briefly, before - I am now faculty at the summer festival that I met David at 15 years ago. Each summer, at the end of camp, I ask the kids what their favorite part of the camp was. Unanimously, they always say, "Orchestra!" That's no lie. Each and everyone! And this is at a camp where they play "Capture The Flag" which is a pretty awesome game!! Their favorite part is always orchestra. I always smile because I know why. I remember back when I was 13 and my favorite part was orchestra. That is where I lived up to my potential and when I made music come alive. I know you have many candidates for your open Music Director and Conductor spot. I also know that David Barg would be a truly wonderful pick for this position and that you would not regret for a moment having him as a part of your organization. He inspires and he creates magic through music.

Best of luck in your search and I thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter of recommendation!

Treesa Gold, Violin Instruction and Performance  
785-764-0042 (cell) [TreesaGold@gmail.com](mailto:TreesaGold@gmail.com)  
TreesaGold.com