

October 13, 2004

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for this opportunity to recommend Marc Adler; he is an inspiring, committed educator and musician.

I met and worked with Marc when he participated in a weeklong conducting workshop I led this past Summer presented by the SUNY Research Foundation, and hosted by the Buffalo, New York Suzuki Strings Musical Arts Center.

It was an intensive series of lectures, hands-on conducting opportunities, group discussions and critiques. Also, students were able to observe as I conducted a string chamber orchestra rehearse an arrangement of the Eighth String Quartet of Dmitri Shostakovich which was then performed at the conclusion of the workshop.

Marc's enthusiasm, love of music and children, and dedication to lifelong learning was abundantly clear in everything he did. He was diligent about studying the exercises, patterns and scores provided – and highly effective in incorporating new learning into an already well-developed approach. Marc has a natural talent for expressive movement – so important to the process of making written music come to life!

His rapport with the student demonstration ensembles was immediate and genuine; they comprised middle and high school students, and the young musicians responded both warmly and energetically. This was a result of his winning sense of humor, and the focused and straightforward way he went about accomplishing the tasks he set out for himself and the group.

As one whose career is dedicated to working with band, chorus, and orchestra leaders throughout the country, as well as abroad, I have a good perspective on the state of school ensemble leadership, as well as knowledge of the nature and challenges educational environments in which these ensembles perform: school, district, system, state. In my work over a decade, I can say with confidence and without qualification that Marc displays the finest qualities one would want to see in a student ensemble conductor. His conducting style is confident and clear, and his enjoyment of working with children – and his dedication to their growth, both personal and musical – is palpable.

When students feel their teacher's personal interest, support, and love for music, their response is far stronger and longer lasting than when they are merely told they're too loud, or to sit up straight. I observed Marc working with the whole person, and, as a result, inspiring the high level of attention and music making that identifies a great teacher.

In concluding, I wish to mention that Marc was liked from the very beginning by the other workshop participants, and was rarely alone. I mention this because of the vital importance of teachers being team players and being able to get along well with the variety of personalities and approaches that distinguish our fellow teachers and administrators.

I am clearly enthusiastic about recommending Marc Adler as a person, role model, musician, educator, and colleague that any school would be fortunate to have on its faculty. I am confident that Marc would be an asset to your program of instrumental music.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my experience of Marc Adler. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or would like further information.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Barg". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Barg, President
The Institute of Continuing Conductor Education