

Carl J. Bianchi, President
Conductor, American Youth Sym. Orch.
10633 Democracy Lane
Potomac, MD 20854

Robert D. Jorgensen, President-Elect
Director of Bands, School of Music
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Akron, OH 44325-1002



Joseph Hermann, Vice-President
Director of Bands, Tenn. Tech. Univ.
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Cookeville, TN 38505

William J. Moody, Secretary-Treasurer
4250 Shorebrook Drive
Columbia, SC 29206
803-787-6540

The American Bandmasters Association

HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENTS

John Phillip Sousa (d. 1932)
Dr. Edwin Franko Goldman (d. 1956)
Dr. Albert Austin Harding (d. 1958)
Dr. Frank Simon (d. 1967)
Dr. Karl L. King (d. 1971)
Dr. Glenn Cliffe Bainum (d. 1974)
Dr. James C. Harper, Sr. (d. 1986)
Col. George S. Howard (d. 1995)
Dr. Mark H. Hindsley (d. 1999)
Dr. Donald E. McGinnis
Dr. Al G. Wright

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS*

Dr. Harry Begian
Dr. Richard E. Strange

PAST PRESIDENTS

Dr. Edwin Franko Goldman (d. 1956)
Dr. Charles O'Neill (d. 1964)
Dr. Herbert L. Clarke (d. 1945)
Dr. Frank Simon (d. 1967)
Dr. Albert Austin Harding (d. 1958)
Dr. Karl A. King (d. 1971)
Dr. Peter Buys (d. 1964)
Capt. R.B. Hayward (d. 1961)
Henry Fillmore (d. 1956)
Dr. Glenn Cliffe Bainum (d. 1974)
Col. H.C. Bronson (d. 1950)
J.J. Richards (d. 1956)
Harold B. Bachman (d. 1972)
Col. Earl D. Irons (d. 1967)
Dr. William D. Revelli (d. 1994)*
Lt. Col. Wm. F. Santelmann (d. 1984)*
Cmdr. Charles Brendler (d. 1965)
Dr. James C. Harper, Sr. (d. 1986)
Col. George S. Howard (d. 1995)
Dr. Mark H. Hindsley (d. 1999)
Herbert N. Johnston (d. 2002)*
Dr. Raymond F. Dvorak (d. 1982)*
Carleton L. Stewart (d. 1985)
Otto J. Kraushaar (d. 1979)
Dr. Earl A. Slocum (d. 1994)*
Dr. Paul V. Yoder (d. 1990)*
Lt. Col. Chester E. Whiting (d. 1985)
Dr. George C. Wilson (d. 2001)*
Fred McCall (d. 1977)
Col. Samuel R. Loboda (d. 1977)
Dr. James W. Berdahl (d. 1996)
Charles J. Payne (d. 1999)
Nilo W. Hovey (d. 1986)
Dr. James W. Dunlop (d. 1975)
Lt. Col. Clifford O. Hunt (d. 2003)
Jack H. Mahan (d. 1995)*
Hugh E. McMillen (d. 1992)
Maj. John F. Yesulaitis (d. 2005)*
John P. Paynter (d. 1996)
Ardeen J. Foss (d. 1977)
Dr. Donald E. McGinnis
Butler R. Eitel
Col. Armand D. Gabriel
Dr. Al G. Wright
Frederick C. Ebbs (d. 1984)
Martin Boundy (d. 1998)
Dr. Harry Begian
Dr. Richard E. Strange
Dr. Edgar B. Gangware, Jr. (d. 1994)
Dr. John M. Long
Col. Eugene W. Allen
Dr. WJ Julian
Mark S. Kelly
Col. John R. Bourgeois
Robert E. Foster
Dr. W. Francis McBeth
Dr. William P. Foster
Kenneth G. Bloomquist
Dr. Myron D. Welch
Frank B. Wickes
Dr. Stanley F. Michalski, Jr.
Bryce Taylor
Edward S. Lisk
Don Wilcox
James P. Keene
Ray Crumser
Jerry Junkin
Dr. John R. Locke
Dr. Thomas V. Franchillo

December 7, 2007

To Andrew Gekoskie and the Langley High School Wind Ensemble

Congratulations on your wonderful performance at the Western International Band Clinic in Seattle this November. You played a very challenging program beautifully and you should be justly proud of your superior performance.

It was my pleasure to be a part of your wonderful program; I enjoyed conducting "Dusk", especially since it was a Langley commission. Working with the Langley band, was a great experience, as was sharing the podium with your wonderful conductor, Maestro Gekoskie

I would also like to thank all the folks that worked so hard to pull the trip together: the parents, the school administrators, and the wonderful travel agent who helped me use my frequent flyer points to upgrade my ticket. It really does take a village to pull this off, and I applaud all those that worked to make this such a great experience for the students and for the guest conductors.

My very best wishes to you all, I really enjoyed being a part of your high school musical experience, and look forward to working with you in the future.

Very truly yours,

Carl (Jeff) Bianchi



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

November 1, 2007

Mr. Andrew Colestock, Director
Langley High School Wind Ensemble
4530 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Mr. Colestock and Wind Ensemble members:

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I am pleased to extend hearty congratulations to you on your recent selection to perform at the 29th annual Western Invitational Band Clinic.

This outstanding achievement illustrates the superior talents that each member of the Langley High Wind Symphony possess due to your tremendous work and pursuit of excellence. As one of four high school music ensembles selected, the Commonwealth is fortunate to have you as a representative in Seattle at this prestigious clinic. I know that you will use the lessons taken from this experience to make a positive contribution to your community and our Commonwealth.

I join your family and friends in congratulating you on this special achievement and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kaine



Office of High School Instruction
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Alan E. Leis Instructional Center
7423 Camp Alger Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

November 20, 2007

Mr. Andrew Gekoskie, Director
Langley High School Wind Ensemble
6520 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Mr. Gekoskie and Wind Ensemble members:

Congratulations to all of you for a truly wonderful performance at the 2007 Western International Band Clinic last week. It was a memorable event for both audience and participants.

The band demonstrated excellent tone quality, wonderful technique, an excellent sense of pitch, and musical style that is truly rare for high school musicians. You represented yourselves, your community, your families, and the Fairfax County Public Schools in a superior fashion.

As you know, planning and executing a successful conference concert is an awesome task, one which you handled in a very professional manner. The literature selected was very appropriate for the great abilities of your ensemble, and of substantial value to the performers and the audience. The printed program was a fine piece of publishing that I am sure required many, many hours of creative energy and editing. Last but certainly not least, the band was very well prepared for the concert!!

Please accept congratulations from all of us in the Fine Arts Office for a job well done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Schoonover', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stanley R. Schoonover
Music Instructional Specialist
FCPS

cc: William Clendaniel, Principal
Personnel File



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Cluster I

Gatehouse Administration Center
8115 Gatehouse Road
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

October 30, 2007

Mr. Andrew Gekoskie
Langley High School

October 23, 2007

Dear Andrew,

Dear Andrew,

Congratulations on the publication of your interview in the October 2007 edition of *School Band and Orchestra*, in which you reflect on your position at Langley High School in McLean, VA.

Your love of music – with all the complexities beyond 'just playing the notes' - comes through time and again. The students at Langley High School are benefiting from your career-long involvement in music – studying, performing, conducting, and composing. I truly understand why you and your students are recognized internationally with invitations to perform and conduct.

You have broadened their horizons by bringing guest artists to your programs. In addition to leading hundreds of students (over 25% of Langley's students!) in different ensembles and extracurricular groups, you have exposed them to the composition process by having them work directly in the New Music Project, which annually commissions a new piece specifically for Langley.

The passion you have for music and your desire to foster that passion within your students is remarkable. From the football field to Carnegie Hall, you consistently instill a desire for technical expertise and appreciation for the nuances in composition – their joy in performing is the reward.

Maestro, take a bow!! We are proud of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audra".

Audra Sydnor
Assistant Superintendent

AS/pg

cc: Bill Clendaniel
Principal, Langley High School



College of Music
Department of Music
Box 426
Boulder, Colorado 80502-0426
303-440-2000, Fax 303-440-2110
Email: music@colorado.edu

January 20, 2005

William Ciendafel, Principal
Langley High School
6520 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101

October 23, 2007

Dear Principal Ciendafel,

Dear Andrew,

Please accept my congratulations on your recent article, "The Music Behind The Notes" in the current issue of SBO magazine. I truly enjoyed the dialogue throughout the interview.

Congratulations on your recent article, "The Music Behind The Notes" in the current issue of SBO magazine. I truly enjoyed the dialogue throughout the interview.

I'm certain that your administration, parents and entire community are all extremely proud of the program you have developed at Langley High School.

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Congratulations again and best wishes for continued success with your program!

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Cordially,

Cordially,

Paul Smith
Vice President Operations
JW Pepper & Son Inc
Pennsylvania

Paul Smith
Vice President Operations
JW Pepper & Son Inc
Pennsylvania

My recent visit with your music students in the Wind Symphony was a delightful exploration of how a composer's inspiration is understood and re-created. We focused on the power of the human spirit to create and improve. We listened and reacted to each other's sound and agreed upon an approach to each phrase that best portrayed its artistic intent. We talked about the composer Paul Hindemith, who escaped Nazi Germany before he could be persecuted for his religious beliefs, and came to the United States where he celebrated his freedom through a composition the band is playing. We used music to explore the human experience and reflected upon its ability to say what words cannot. The students understood and grew.

301 UCB

Boulder, Colorado 80309-0301

303-492-6584, Fax: 303-735-6415

E-mail: cuband@spot.colorado.edu

January 26, 2005

William Clendariel, Principal
Langley High School
6520 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Principal Clendariel:

Please accept my congratulations for the outstanding band program you support at Langley High School. Last week, at the invitation of Andrew Gekoskie, I worked with the talented student members of the Wind Symphony in a rehearsal/clinic. While my schedule seldom allows time to work with individual high schools, I decided to accept the invitation after hearing this remarkable ensemble at their performance last April at the Music Educators National Conference in Minneapolis.

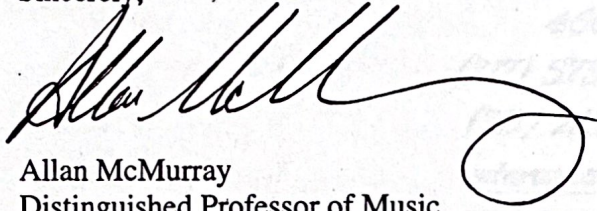
Many of our countries leading musicians and educators have been concerned by a growing trend in secondary music education to use competitions as a motivator and measure of high school music programs. The pursuit of trophies in these programs and the goal of "beating the other school" is the antithesis of the artistic experience and students from these programs seldom demonstrate an intrinsic understanding of music. Since the nations finest artist/musicians are loath to serve as adjudicator,, competitive programs are frequently judged by inferior musicians who measure a successful performance by technique alone, thus missing the point that art music exists to reveal not display.

Andrew Gekoskie has created a music learning and understanding environment that should be a model for every school in the country. At Langley High School, the Wind Symphony is connected with outstanding artists through their conductor's passion for the pursuit of a meaningful understanding of music as an art form. By including within his curriculum performing venues such as Carnegie Hall, concert attendance at New York Philharmonic and National Symphony performances, and work with solo artists and composers, Mr. Gekoskie has sculpted a program that teaches the whole student and stimulates within each student an appreciation for beauty and the highest level of musical achievement.

My recent work with your music students in the Wind Symphony was a delightful exploration of how a composer's inspiration is understood and communicated. We focused on the power of the human spirit to create and imagine. We listened and reacted to each other's sound and agreed upon an approach to each phrase that best portrayed its artistic intent. We talked about the composer, Paul Hindemith, who escaped Nazi Germany before he could be persecuted for his religious belief, and came to the United States where he celebrated his freedom through a composition the band is playing. We used music to explore the human experience and reflected upon its ability to say what words cannot. The students understood and grew.

Thank you for your encouragement and support of the music students at Langley High School and for Mr. Gekoskie's exquisite vision of how music is taught and learned. I truly believe that your students are receiving an education in music that will enrich their lives forever.

Sincerely,



Allan McMurray
Distinguished Professor of Music
Robert and Judy Charles Professor of Conducting
Director of Bands
University of Colorado

Cc: Mike Troiano, Langley HS Band Booster President
Stan Schoonover, Fairfax County Public Schools Music Specialist
Andrew Gekoskie, Langley HS Director of Bands

Dear Mr. Clendaniel,

I had the exquisite pleasure of recently spending a weekend with Andy Gekoskie's Symphony Band and wanted to tell you what a rare and talented ensemble you have at your school. I was initially impressed by the literature that I was to conduct. Paul Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphosis* is one of the great works for both orchestra and band. It is performed by all the major symphony orchestras and usually a select few of the top university ensembles. It is truly remarkable that Mr. Gekoskie is able to perform this work with his Band!

I have had the privilege of conducting All-State Bands all over this country and want you to know that you have a group in your school that matches many of those very select groups. It is very impressive.

The time we spent together was truly rewarding for me and a great joy. I wish you and your exceptional ensemble the very best and know that their continued music-making skills are being constantly enhanced by Andrew Gekoskie. He is a rare and talented conductor, musician, and individual.

My sincere congratulations!

Sincerely,

Stanley DeRusha
Resident Conductor - Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra

Stanley DeRusha

3409 Briar Circle

Carmel, Indiana

46033 USA

(317) 573-8289 - Home

(317) 213-4687 - Cell

sderusha@earthlink.net

January 23, 2005

Bill Clendaniel
Principal, Langley High School
6520 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101
William.clendaniel@fcps.edu

Dear Mr. Clendaniel,

I had the exquisite pleasure of recently spending a weekend with Andy Gekoskie's Symphony Band and wanted to tell you what a rare and talented ensemble you have at your school. I was initially impressed by the literature that I was to conduct. Paul Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphosis* is one of the great works for both orchestra and band. It is performed by all the major symphony orchestras and usually a select few of the top university ensembles. It is truly remarkable that Mr. Gekoskie is able to perform this work with his Band!

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My sincere congratulations!

Sincerely,

Stanley DeRusha
Resident Conductor - Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra

Sincerely,

Stanley DeRusha
Resident Conductor - Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra
Music Director - New Millennium Philharmonic Orchestra
Principal Guest Conductor - La Orquesta Filarmonica de Montevideo
(Uruguay)
Professor of Music- Butler University

Mr. Andrew Gekoskie
Band Director
Langley High School
6630 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Andy and members of the Wind Symphony

Congratulations on your wonderful performance at the 2005 National Concert Band Festival. The quality literature you selected and the superior level of performance evidenced the excellence of the Langley band program. The outstanding sound of the group is not only a testament to the students' talent, but also to your continued excellence as their director and teacher.

Thank you for your dedication in providing a quality music education for all of your students. The care and attention that you display is an important part of your students' education as well. Please know that you are appreciated for all that you do for your students and for music education in our schools.

Please pass on our congratulations to all of the student performers for their outstanding work, and for representing themselves, their school, their community, and the Fairfax County Public Schools in such a positive fashion. Best wishes for continued success.

Please also pass along my congratulations and gratitude to John Kilkenny and the Percussion Ensemble for their excellent performance at the National Percussion Festival.

Sincerely,



Stanley R. Schenover
Music Instructional Specialist

cc: Principal



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Instructional Services

Alan E. Leis Instructional Center
7423 Camp Alger Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

March 15, 2005

Mr. Andrew Gekoskie
Band Director
Langley High School
6520 Georgetwon Pike
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Andy and members of the Wind Symphony:

Congratulations on your wonderful performance at the 2005 National Concert Band Festival. The quality literature you selected and the superior level of performance evidenced the excellence of the Langley band program. The outstanding sound of the group is not only a testament to the students' talent, but also to your continued excellence as their director and teacher.

Thank you for your dedication in providing a quality music education for all of your students. The care and attention that you display is an important part of your students' education as well. Please know that you are appreciated for all that you do for your students and for music education in our schools.

Please pass on our congratulations to all of the student performers for their outstanding work, and for representing themselves, their school, their community, and the Fairfax County Public Schools in such a positive fashion. Best wishes for continued success.

Please also pass along my congratulations and gratitude to John Kilkenny and the Percussion Ensemble for their excellent performance at the National Percussion Festival.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Schoonover', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stanley R. Schoonover
Music Instructional Specialist

cc: Principal



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Instructional Services
Alan Leis Instructional Center
7423 Camp Alger Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

April 19, 2004

Mr. Andrew Gekoskie
Langley High School Wind Symphony
6520 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Mr. Gekoskie and Wind Symphony Members:

Congratulations to all of you for a truly wonderful performance at the 2004 Music Educators National Conference Bi-annual Convention in Minneapolis last week. I am sure it will be an event long remembered by both audience and participants. Special thanks for including me as a guest conductor—it was a real treat for me to be able to work with your fine brass section as well as your excellent timpanists.

Your ensemble demonstrated an outstanding tutti tone quality, an excellent sense of pitch, and a musical sense that is rare for high school musicians. You represented yourselves, your community, your families, and the Fairfax County Public Schools in a superior fashion.

Planning and executing a successful conference concert is an awesome task, one which you handled in a very professional manner. The literature selected was appropriate for the group, and of musical value to the performers and the audience. The printed program was an outstanding piece of publishing that I am sure required many, many hours of creative energy and editing. In addition, the ensemble was very well prepared for the concert!!

Please accept congratulations from all of us in the Fine Arts Office for a job well done.

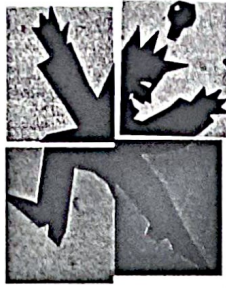
Sincerely,

Stanley R. Schoonover
Music Instructional Specialist
FCPS

cc: Bill Clendaniel, Principal
File

*John
From Nick*

*and! Congrats you two the
best C.W.M. - what a job!
ALL THE BEST!*



KiCK it in!

instruction & design concepts

March 23, 2005

Andrew Gekoskie
Langley High School
6520 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101

Andrew:

WOW! What an EXCITING event and THANK YOU for being a part of the Bands of America 14th Annual National Concert Band Festival! Scott, Eric and the rest of their crew did an OUTSTANDING job making everything happen, but we couldn't have KICKed IT IN without the SUPER students, staff and parents from Langley High School!

What an honor it was to be able to share some time with everyone involved in the opening session. The energy and enthusiasm displayed, along with a very good sense of focus throughout the presentation, demonstrated to me that Langley High School has the kind of students who want to succeed in LIFE and really KICK IT IN!

There's no question that you are making a difference! The very fact that you took the time to stop your world and participate in this event shows your interest in developing not only the musicianship and talent in your students, but also the self-motivation and personal leadership needed in today's society. Too many people just apathetically go through the day-to-day motions of their lives without ever stopping to think about many of the things we shared in our presentation. They constantly rely on other things or other people to get them going, rather than realizing that they must motivate themselves. ✓ KICKing IT IN is not about seeing people excited for just one day, it's about seeing the world differently every day. Inspiring that internal drive to make things happen constantly challenges everyone to "put more into it if you want to get more out of it!"

There's no question you and your group "put more into it!" THANKS again and keep...

KICKin' IT IN!

Fran Kick

WOW! CARNEGIE HALL THEN THE
NCSF @ WDM - WHAT'S NEXT?
ALL THE BEST!