

Stanley DeRusha

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Dear To Whom It May Concern:

I am privileged to write to you in behalf of Indianapolis' foremost young conductor because I feel that he is one of the finest professional orchestras or wind orchestras serving high-level ensembles.

First and foremost, Maestro Gekoskie is an extraordinarily innately gifted conductor. Coupled with his outstanding musical acumen is a professional baton technique which rivals the very best I have observed. Maestro Gekoskie brings music to life humbly with his soaring ability to make the music in the most expressive and sophisticated way. His musical presence cannot help but create a wonderful sound. His performances are always heartfelt, inspired, and contain an enviable element of spontaneity.

To whom it may concern:

Maestro Gekoskie is a very personable and warm on the podium allowing him to establish wonderful rapport with any ensemble with which he is working. He does all of that while working hard for the best results.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to recommend **Andrew Gekoskie** as a worthy candidate for your conducting position. I have known Maestro Gekoskie for over twenty years and during that time have seen him blossom into a formative conductor. He is a passionate man on the podium with a thorough grasp of the music he is conducting. He has an excellent demeanor with musicians, both young and old, and is very efficient in his rehearsals.

Maestro Gekoskie has an excellent grasp of the literature and has a real flare for programming. He is a conductor with many years of experience and has a dedication to score study that serves him well as he works with the orchestra or speaks with the audience.

I would be pleased to speak with anyone on his behalf.

Sincerely,

Stanley DeRusha

Resident Conductor – Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra

Music Director – Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra

Principal American Guest Conductor – La Orquesta Filarmonica de Montevideo,
Uruguay

Respectfully Yours,

Robert E. Cameron, D.M.A.
Professor of Conducting
Mary Perpetua School of Music
Duquesne University
Pittsburgh, PA 15282
412-256-6037

Dear To Whom It May Concern:

I am privileged to write to you in behalf of Andrew Gekoskie, one of America's foremost young conductors because I feel that he is eminently qualified to conduct any professional orchestra or wind orchestra seeking high-level musical leadership.

First and foremost, Maestro Gekoskie is an extraordinarily innately gifted conductor. Coupled with his outstanding musicianship is a professional baton technique which rivals the very best I have observed. Maestro Gekoskie brings music to life instantly with his amazing ability to mime the music in the most expressive and sophisticated way. His podium presence cannot help but create a wonderful sound. His performances are always top-notch, inspired and contain an enviable element of spontaneity.

Second, Maestro Gekoskie is very personable and warm on the podium allowing him to establish wonderful rapport with any ensemble with which he is working. He does all of this while accomplishing very ambitious musical goals. As an educator/conductor his accomplishments speak for themselves with the many performances he has conducted at major national music conventions, music festivals, Carnegie Hall and other venues.

Thirdly, Maestro Gekoskie is not afraid to select the most challenging repertoire for any ensemble fortunate enough to employ his services. This is particularly important in terms of musical growth as his musical selections challenge and stretch ensembles to the extent that they cannot help but improve.

Maestro Gekoskie is an outstanding administrator, and "public relations" person crucial to the success of any conductor these days. He has a proven track record of having assembled numerous complex music festivals all of which have been a resounding success.

Finally I hasten to add that Maestro Gekoskie is a warm, genuine person who works extremely well with others including administrative personnel and virtually anyone with whom he comes in contact. His ability to work cordially with others is a breath of fresh air in a profession in which elitism sometimes prevails.

You will have to look very far to find anyone as qualified as Andrew Gekoskie for he truly is a first class musician, conductor, educator and person. He has my very highest recommendations for whatever his future professional path. If you have any questions as to his qualifications I ask that you contact me so that I may elaborate further!

Please give Maestro Gekoskie your very highest consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert C. Cameron, D.M.A.
Professor of Conducting
Mary Pappert School of Music
Duquesne University
Pittsburgh, PA 15282
412-396-6067

JONATHAN HAYS BARTONE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

University Bands

194 Ferguson Hall
2106 Fourth Street South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

School of Music

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this recommendation on behalf of Andrew Gekoskie. I have been aware of Andy's significant accomplishments at Langley for some time, however, it was my pleasure to meet Andy last year and to have the opportunity to work with his students.

Andy has established an outstanding track record of accomplishment at Langley. The artistic accomplishments of the Langley Wind Symphony are recognized nationally. The Wind Symphony's performance at the Music Educators National Conference National Convention in Minneapolis and the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis have been critically acclaimed. These accomplishments reflect Andy's unique gifts as a musician and as a teacher. Andy is an outstanding musician who has the ability to communicate musical intent from the podium with intensity and with sensitivity. Andy's conducting technique is expressive and clear, and he is able to communicate the emotional intent of the music to the musicians in front of him with commitment. He possesses an efficient rehearsal technique that focuses on musical goals, ensuring that technique remains the servant of the music. It is also evident that Andy knows how to motivate performers to do their very best. His ensembles often perform at a musical level that surpasses their collective musical talent.

Andy is extremely knowledgeable about the repertoire for both wind bands and orchestra. I consider him to be a truly ecumenical musician able to function as a conductor in a variety of musical settings. Andy is entrepreneurial and he is extremely organized. I have no doubt that he has the ability to competently administrate any program that he is entrusted with. Andy knows how to work with people and he knows how to delegate responsibility. He is a good listener and is able to enlist the energy and experience of others in the decision-making process. Andy is engaging, bright, and articulate. He will be an excellent representative of your organization.

I am pleased to recommend Andrew Gekoskie to you with enthusiasm and with confidence. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance to you in assessing Andy's qualifications.

Sincerely,

Craig Kirchoff
Professor of Music

Jonathan Hays

JONATHAN HAYS BARITONE

December 28, 2007

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to recommend Andrew Gekoskie for engagement as Principal Conductor or Music Director of an establishment, university or school. Andrew's exemplary program building skills and prodigious musicianship first came to my attention when he took over the position of Conductor at the Cumberland Valley School District, for which my father was his direct supervisor. In two short years, he took a floundering program that had been bogged down by uncooperative parents, an unsupportive school board, and a jaded music staff, and transformed it into a nationally recognized wind orchestra with invitations to perform at some of our nation's most prestigious festivals, such as the Pennsylvania Music Educators' Association, the Music Educators' National Conference, and the Fiesta Bowl. Toward the end of Andrew's tenure at Cumberland Valley, he invited me to sing with his Wind Ensemble as a surprise for my father's retirement. Though merely a group of teenagers, his players rose to the difficulty of accompanying a professional opera singer with adeptness reserved for ensembles at the college level or higher. They played every note with detailed phrasing, acute attention to dynamics and, through Andrew's direction, they responded to my every nuance, sacrificing neither expression nor tone. I have a recording of the event, and I still marvel at the quality of their playing.

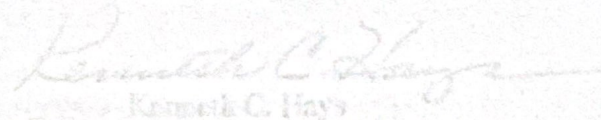
When Andrew's career advanced to larger and more prominent organizations, he continued to invite me to perform with his ensembles. His conducting, which was always advanced for a music educator, began to take on attributes associated with conductors of professional orchestras, revealing a deep passion for the music he makes. His beat pattern communicates tempo, emotion, phrasing and dynamics, and his knowledge of technique allows him an uncommonly high degree of spontaneity in performance. He learns his scores with precision and detail and, when at the podium, he throws cues with seldom a glance downward. Naturally, the quality of the playing in his groups has grown along with his talent from being merely extraordinary, to being outright astonishing.

Andrew is a uniquely talented ensemble builder, an extraordinary conductor, an adept leader, and a loyal colleague. My association with him through the years has been both profitable and musically rewarding. His colleagues look to him for guidance and vision, and he delivers both in heavy dosage. I recommend him highly and I am certain he will reflect credit on any institution that chooses to associate itself with his work.

If I can be of further assistance, please be in touch with me at the contact information included below.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hays



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PHONE: 646-246-8352 • EMAIL: JONATHAN@JONATHANHAYS.NET
WWW.JONATHANHAYS.NET

*Kenneth C. Hays
6 Glendale Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6137
717-766-4179*

To Prospective Employer:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Andrew R. Gekoskie. In 1997 I was the Music Department Supervisor for the Cumberland Valley School District, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and played a principle role in hiring Andy for the position of High School Band Director. The position included directing the Symphonic Winds (the top level, membership-by-audition wind ensemble), the Concert Band (the ensemble for all other band students), the Marching Band, the Jazz Band and sectional rehearsals.

As his supervisor, I observed Andy both formally and informally. Andy's teaching style embraced an "open door" policy that included an invitation to come to rehearsals at any time. I emphasize this point because I did observe his teaching style and conducting skills frequently.

Andy is an excellent teacher and conductor. He developed an exceptional sound and tone quality with the instrumentalists in both the Symphonic Winds and the Concert Band. He taught the students to listen carefully for balance, to pay strict attention to dynamics and to feel the "inner beats" to the rhythms and notes. He has extensive knowledge of excellent wind ensemble and band repertoire and always selected music on a level that challenged the students. Andy made numerous compact discs while at Cumberland Valley that validate my statements about his conducting and teaching abilities.

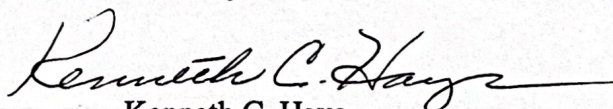
During the 1998-99 school year, the Symphonic Winds was selected to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Conference held in Valley Forge and at the Eastern Division of the Music Educators National Conference held in New York City. Recordings of these outstanding performances are available.

Andy is an outstanding marching band director. Upon his arrival at Cumberland Valley, he immediately improved the marching skills and playing ability of the students to the point that the marching band won many outstanding awards. He is demanding and instills a strict sense of discipline with the students. As a result, the students felt a great sense of pride and confidence when entering the stadium for a performance or competition.

Andy continually exposed the students to excellent musicians and performing groups. He brought Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra to Cumberland Valley and also presented Dennis DiBlasio and his jazz ensemble in concert. He made arrangements for Wynton and Dennis to present workshops for all the band students. He engaged William Kellerman, an excellent euphonium player, to perform with the Symphonic Winds in concert.

I recommend Andy Gekoskie for any position in instrumental music. He is an outstanding musician, a skilled and refined conductor, an excellent teacher and an exceptional person.

Sincerely,



Kenneth C. Hays
Music Dept. Supervisor (Retired)
Cumberland Valley School District
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

1201 Henderson Road
Angleton, Texas 77515
(979) 849-8206--School
(979) 864-8675--Facsimile
Patricia Montgomery, Ed.D., Principal

Angleton Senior High School

January 29, 2002

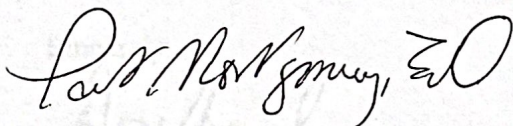
To Whom It May Concern:

Andrew Gekoskie began working with the Angleton High School band two years ago. When he came to Angleton, the band program was in disarray. In the short time he has been here, he has revitalized the program. Students who joined band simply to march and cheer at football games have learned to enjoy playing and listening to beautiful music throughout the concert season. Students who thought the only way to march at football games was in straight lines to Sousa marches have learned that a football crowd can be brought to its feet cheering by a well-drilled band that plays classical music and moves in flowing lines. In other words, Mr. Gekoskie has turned our band program around.

Our students feel a tremendous loyalty to Mr. Gekoskie and to the innovations he has introduced to them. They are excited with the new direction of the band. That is quite a feat; to be able to change a tradition-bound (or, bogged down) program and have the students and their parents be the biggest proponents of it.

I highly recommend Andrew Gekoskie for any position that you may consider him. He will bring great talent and enthusiasm to your school. Your school and students will be the richer for him. We will miss Andy, but we know that Texas is far away from his family and we wish him the best of things in the future. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 979-849-8206.

Sincerely,



Patricia Montgomery, Ed.D.
Principal

Excellence is the tradition and the tradition continues ...
UIL motto



ANGLETON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



J. HERMAN SMITH, Ed. D.
SUPERINTENDENT

School, Home, & Community
January 28, 2002

EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPUS
DON HOOD, PRINCIPAL

Re: Andrew Gekoskie

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for Andrew Gekoskie.

In my capacity as Advisor of Fine Arts for our school district, I have had many opportunities to work with Mr. Gekoskie and observe his performance.

Mr. Gekoskie was hired at a very critical time for our band program. The band had made a fourth division at the last band contest entered, then the head band director resigned without warning on the first day summer band was to start. The entire program, already in poor condition, was collapsing.

Mr. Gekoskie immediately pulled the program together and by UIL marching contest, the band was able to earn a first division rating. He developed a comprehensive band program for the district. Manuals and procedures were developed for all aspects and levels of the program. Inventory control procedures were implemented. In part because of his reputation, he was able to attract quality staff and consultants. As result, the number of students participating in middle school band increased greatly and the quality of performance increased dramatically. Additionally, the performance level of the high school band increased significantly each year.

In summary, I feel Mr. Gekoskie has the ability to produce outstanding musical organizations.

Sincerely,

Don Hood

EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPUS

429 EAST LOCUST ♦ ANGLETON, TEXAS 77515 ♦ OFFICE (979) 849-1226 ♦ FAX (979) 864-8704



ANGLETON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



JAMES H. SMITH, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

School, Home, & Community

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February 7, 2002

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please accept this letter as a support for Mr. Andrew Gekoskie, who presently serves as the Angleton Independent School District Supervisor of Instrumental Music in Angleton, Texas.

Mr. Gekoskie was hired in 1999. In that short period of time, Mr. Gekoskie was able to restructure the entire AISD Band Program into a comprehensive 6-12 band program.

In addition, he was able to attract nationally-known clinicians to help the students and staff of the AISD Band program. Clinicians have included: Dr. Dave Teachout, Beginning Band Techniques – Penn State University; Mr. Bill Kellerman, Euphonium Solist – Rutgers University; Dr. Henry Howey, Musicologist – Sam Houston State University; Mr. Fran Kick, Motivational Speaker; the Brass, Percussion, Colorguard Caption-Head Instructors of the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps and the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps.

Mr. Gekoskie also brought the US Scholastic Band Association (USSBA) Texas Regional Championship to Angleton for the past two years. This event gave the students, parents and community an opportunity to see some of the best marching bands in the State of Texas right here in Angleton.

The Angleton Band Program is once again growing in numbers and quality.

I am recommending Andrew Gekoskie for any position that you may consider him qualified.

Sincerely,

J. Herman Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Toni Marie Marchioni
1934 Harvard Yard Mail Center
Cambridge, MA 02138-7509
(617) 493-3822
marchion@fas.harvard.edu

February 4, 2002

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in reference to my former teacher, Andrew Gekoskie, who was the director of bands at Cumberland Valley High School throughout my freshman and sophomore years. Currently a freshman oboist here at Harvard University, I can now look back to my high school experiences and truly appreciate just what Mr. Gekoskie accomplished. During his tenure, our Symphonic Winds was playing music that was well above the traditional high school literature; he brought a previously average ensemble to a level more advanced than many college bands.

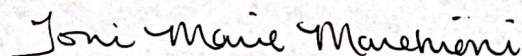
The Cumberland Valley Symphonic Winds began the 1997-8 school year performing Holst's *First Suite* in the high school auditorium and ended the 1998-9 season presenting Grainger's *Lincolnshire Posy* at both the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association and the Music Educators National Conference. He brought an air of professionalism to both rehearsals and concerts, from simply conducting rehearsals in a serious manner to instituting a black-tie dress code for performances. He transformed the band program from an apathetic, uninterested group to a collection of true musicians.

These results were all possible because of Mr. Gekoskie's musical brilliance. He conducted with sheer musicality and was able to teach us to play at levels that were formerly unimaginable. He insisted upon intense concentration throughout rehearsals and demanded the best from his students. He could be described as a taskmaster, but it was through this challenging and strenuous agenda that our band became so successful.

If your program is seeking a teacher to merely befriend the students and fill the position with undeserved compliments and self-esteem boosters, Mr. Gekoskie may not be your ideal candidate. However, if you are in search of someone to teach musicality, inspire your students to reach for new musical levels, and truly enrich your music program, I urge you to seriously consider Mr. Gekoskie.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Toni Marie Marchioni