



CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

Joel Smirnoff, President  
[cim.edu](http://cim.edu)

December 1, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I have been asked to write a letter of support for Dr. Barry Kolman, whom I have known for over fifteen years.

Dr. Kolman and I have collaborated on concerts with the Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra and the Washington and Lee University Wind Ensemble, as well as classroom lectures addressing career management within the music industry. Our most recent concert collaboration took place earlier this concert season, with a concert featuring the William Grant Still Afro-American Symphony and the saxophone concerti by Pierre Max Dubois and Subaram Raman. The concert received a standing ovation, as well as wonderful reviews throughout the community.

It is rare to find the high level of artistry that Dr. Kolman commands, with dignity and respect – with both the college and professional levels. He is a world class conductor, and has directed orchestras and ensembles throughout the world. His listing of countries that he has conducted in is no less than staggering - from the remote areas of Southeast Europe, to Asia - a testament to his talent and hard work ethic.

I have seen Dr. Kolman direct various ensembles, and have observed his demeanor within the classroom setting. He treats his colleagues and students with dignity and respect, and more so he cultivates an atmosphere where his students can grow and develop.

Dr. Kolman is a not only a true artist, but a true gentlemen to say the least. I have had the pleasure of recommending Dr. Kolman to guest-conduct orchestras in Poland, and the result has been numerous invitations for him to return as a guest conductor. Dr. Kolman has already made such a positive impact within his field as a conductor and educator, over the last thirty years, and his project proposal is no less than admirable. It shows his love and passion to expose other countries to the historically important artists of the United State. His several recordings on the Centaur Record label are a testament to his devotion to his art and this country.

Dr. Kolman is truly an exceptional person and human being, to say the least. Despite his success, he is a warm-hearted individual, extremely personable, and a caring husband and father. I am honored to have him as a friend and colleague.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information in regard to Dr. Kolman, and thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Professor Greg Banaszak, Member – The Cleveland Orchestra  
Phone: (216) 798-7510, Email: [greg@gregbanaszak.com](mailto:greg@gregbanaszak.com)  
The Cleveland Institute of Music  
Baldwin- Wallace Conservatory of Music

11021 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
phone 216.791.5000



**Music Department**

1200 Park Rd  
Harrisonburg VA 22802-2462

Phone: (540) 432-4225

Fax: (540) 432-4622

To Whom It May Concern:

I enthusiastically write in support of Dr. Barry Kolman's application for the position of Orchestra Director at your institution. I have known Dr. Kolman for the past fifteen years through my position as concertmaster of the Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra, which Barry directs.

Dr. Kolman is an excellent musician of the highest caliber with whom I enjoy collaborating. Dr. Kolman's conducting skill is exemplified in many ways. His technique is clear and easy to follow. He is an effective communicator, both with the baton and with verbal communication. Barry gives 150 percent of himself at every rehearsal. By setting this example of exerting his best effort, he expects others to do the same. This level of expectation sets a professional tone that enables the group to perform at a high level.

Dr. Kolman is a true scholar with a keen intellect. He studies the score and the music from a historical perspective thoroughly before the first rehearsal. Part of the reason I enjoy playing under Barry is that I always learn something new about the music at every rehearsal, even if I have played the piece many times before. This makes for a very rich and stimulating musical environment, for the students and professionals alike.

Barry is very congenial, witty, and humorous, all of which make for lively and fun rehearsals. His good-natured rapport with the students is based on mutual respect. Although I believe Barry could conduct orchestras on any level, he takes his role as an educator at Washington and Lee University seriously. He is passionate about passing along his knowledge and love of music to his students, the true mark of an excellent teacher.

I highly recommend Dr. Barry Kolman for the music position to which he is applying. Feel free to contact me if I may offer more assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Griffing".

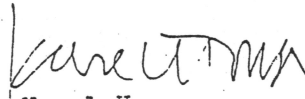
Dr. Joan Griffing  
Chair and Professor of Music  
Music Department  
Eastern Mennonite University  
[Griffing@emu.edu](mailto:Griffing@emu.edu)  
540-432-4224  
November 18, 2010

Karel Husa  
1032 Hanshaw Road  
Ithaca, New York 14850

Dr. Barry Kolman's recording of my Symphony No.2(Reflections),  
Music for Prague 1968 and Fresque are imaginative, precise  
and very musical.

His tempi are appropriate, musical ideas expressed most competently  
and he leads the orchestra in an impressive way.

I can recommend him as an unusually gifted young conductor and  
musician, whose talents will, no doubt, develop in the future.  
His career should be a bright one.

  
Karel Husa

Ithaca, New York,  
21 August 1994

Karel Husa  
1032 Hanshaw Road  
Ithaca, New York 14850

Tel (607) 257 7018  
Fax (607) 257 0616

June 19 9 6

Dear Barry:

Thank you for your letter and CD which arrived today and I immediately played it. What an exciting recording! My most sincere congratulations! The music dances throughout (thanks to you), the orchestra is brilliant and the recording sound excellent. I know that Antheil's music is difficult to bring out, as is any music that is danceful; sometime it could sound dry, pedantic-but you really make the musicians play with life and happiness. And that is not easy. So again my sincere congratulations. And also, many thanks for the inscription.

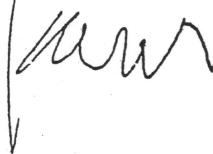
I could not go to Paris (the concert is tomorrow). All was arranged with interviews during intermission etc, but doctors advised me (including my own daughter-doctor) not to go. So, it has to be the next time.

I read that you are very busy with numerous orchestras, I believe very strongly your career will advance, as it has to. It takes some time, but you will "arrive". And that makes me feel good too, for you merit it.

Please accept a CD from me, which was released recently (the notes have to be redone, because they cut the description of the Krojan Women in order to put a picture on the last page. I wish the picture were smaller and the program notes completed.

With all the best wishes,

cordially Yours







November 21, 2010

To the Music Faculty Search Committee for the Position of Orchestra Conductor:

I am pleased to offer you my highest recommendation for Dr. Barry Kolman.

As a member of the Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra for over twenty years, I have worked under Dr. Kolman's baton for most of his time there. In addition, we worked together for several years as music faculty colleagues at Washington & Lee University and James Madison University, at times also performing chamber music together. I have had ample opportunity to observe him in various settings and feel qualified to evaluate his abilities relevant to your position.

Dr. Kolman is creative in his approach to repertoire selection, producing well-balanced programs that mix traditional and unusual works in a way that both challenges and excites performers and entices audiences to attend concerts. His personal preparation for rehearsals and concerts is thorough, allowing him to give appropriate leadership to the group, to efficiently work out difficult passages, to communicate significant background information about the music or composer, to respond to balance issues, and to inspire musicians to perform up to their full potential. Being deeply committed to outstanding performances, he encourages expressive playing and technical mastery of the music from everyone in the group. Students share stands with professionals in his orchestra in a conscience effort to help students gain valuable skills, knowledge, and experience through mentorship with experienced players.

Kolman's musical expertise, due to an extensive academic background and significant work with numerous orchestras world wide, has enhanced his success as a conductor. He has continuously sought opportunities for professional growth and experience with orchestras of differing levels, bringing each of those experiences back to his own orchestra and effectively challenging and strengthening them. With numerous performances and professional publications to his credit, his impact on others has been positive and far reaching. His passion for music is evident to orchestras and audience alike. Expecting the best from each performer, Kolman instills a sense of pride and ownership in the group as they all work together to produce outstanding performances.

I urge you to give strong consideration to Barry Kolman's application, as I have every reason to believe he would do a marvelous job in your situation.

Sincerely,  
Mary Kay Adams

Assistant Director of the Honors Program, James Madison University,  
Executive Director and Principal Flutist, Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival,  
Principal Flutist, University-Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra,  
Adjunct Flute Instructor, Bridgewater College  
Former music faculty member: James Madison University, Washington & Lee University,  
Eastern Mennonite University, EMU Preparatory Music Program, Mary Baldwin College,  
Arkansas Tech University, Liberty University

Office of the Director	MSC 1501
HONORS PROGRAM	Harrisonburg, VA 22807
	540.568.6953 Phone
	540.568.8079 Fax

September 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this recommendation for the American Orchestra Conductor, Barry Kolman

Maestro Kolman has conducted The State Philharmonic, Kosice on several occasions. He was our guest conductor in 1993 during our annual Sacred Music Festival. He has recorded three compact disks with our Orchestra as well. As a clarinetist, I was guest soloist with the Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra in Lexington where Mr. Kolman is Music Director and Conductor. In every situation, I have known him to be an outstanding musician.

Mr. Kolman's baton technique is fluent, clear and concise; his knowledge of the music is always complete and well studied, and his feel for the music itself is always expressive and personal. He achieves an immediate rapport and respect with his musicians whether he is at home in Virginia or overseas. He is extremely efficient with rehearsal time, keeping his instructions and comments brief and to the point. He is articulate, knows what he wants, and is able to draw out great music from his players. His résumé is extensive and very impressive. In Virginia, Mr. Kolman is well respected by his own orchestra musicians who thoroughly appreciate his musicianship as well as his sense of humor. They sincerely enjoy playing for him.

His first recording with The State Philharmonic, Kosice was of Anton Rubinstein's Third and Fifth Symphonies. The orchestral parts of the Third Symphony were lost. Mr. Kolman found the score and wrote out and edited all the parts. His second recording contained music of the American, George Antheil. He recorded a third CD with us of Hollywood film music composed by Max Steiner. This was a 2-year project for him in which the final result was a CD of two orchestral suites which Mr. Kolman created and extracted from the actual Hollywood score. With each recording, Mr. Kolman was thorough with his knowledge of some very complicated scores and worked calmly and efficiently while under the pressure of producing an excellent disk.

His concert performance with us was very successful and received an excellent review from the press. His varied program included an early composition of Webern as well as a Schubert Mass which involved his working closely with our local choral musicians.

There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Kolman is a talented and accomplished conductor. I would be pleased to speak about his outstanding qualifications by phone if you wish. I recommend Mr. Barry Kolman for attention without hesitation.

Sincerely yours,  
Julius Klein  
Executive Director

