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Andrew Constantine
Music Director

To My Friend and Colleague

Dear Peter,

As you prepare to retire from 27 years as the first Music Director of the Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra, please know I will always remain proud of what you and the musicians have accomplished throughout your tenure.

In looking back on the beginning, after my discussions with public and private music teachers, and especially the RSO Education Committee, there seemed to be no doubt that the idea of creating a youth orchestra should become a reality.

With the approval of the RSO Board, it was time to find a Music Director. As you may recall, after the auditions, I did not hesitate to offer you the position. I had a feeling your knowledge, personality and judgment made you the best choice.... And the journey began!

After attending the first few rehearsals, strange noises and all, I couldn't help but wonder where it would all go. Never did I imagine the youth orchestra would grow into such a magnificent display of skills. Your standards and expectations were always very high, and the musicians soon appeared confident and proud. Of those young beginners of 27 years ago, many became skilled performers, perhaps on their way to audition for the RSO. I hope others will follow the same path in the future.

You have brought great pleasure to audiences here and abroad and I offer you my sincere compliments. Congratulations on your retirement and best wishes in your future endeavors!

The RSO family and I say "Bravo Peter"! And another thing Peter, my legacy with the RSO is enhanced by your success.

Sid

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