

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this recommendation in support of Dr. Barry Araujo Kolman. Dr. Kolman has extensive experience as a symphonic conductor, having led orchestras such as the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the State Orchestra of Azerbaijan, the Crimean State Philharmonic, the Rio de Janeiro Philharmonic and the Hu Nan Philharmonic in China. His conducting experience has been in a variety of literature, and that experience has taken him into the recording studio as well, where he has led works by Anton Rubinstein, Karel Husa and George Antheil.

My experience with Dr. Kolman was in the role of solo pianist with the Shenandoah Symphony, under Dr. Kolman's direction. In the Ravel Concerto in G Major I found him to be a forceful leader, capable of getting the most from his players. He is adept at rhythm and handling the intricacies of the outer movements of the concerto presented no problems to him or the orchestra. The slow second movement was handled sensitively and provided appropriate color to support the piano.

I enjoyed my experience collaborating with Dr. Kolman. He made what can sometimes be an experience in trepidation an exhilarating ride through one of the great pieces of the piano repertoire. I would look forward to working with him again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leon Bates", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Leon Bates