



East Middle School Bands  
Peter Deneen and Scott Sorenson, conductors

March 22, 2009

Dear Chris:

I am writing to thank you and offer my heartfelt support for all that you are doing, all that you have done and all that you are intending to do for music and young people in our area.

I was so excited when you contacted me to announce the creation of the Bay Area Music Foundation. The concept of a self-sustaining, non-profit organization that will provide instruments, lessons and life-changing experiences for both talented and underserved kids is a "dream come true" for teachers in the area; but especially for the students that the Foundation will touch. I can't wait to witness the magic!

I was also thrilled to hear that you were reincarnating the Reef Petroleum Big Band as the Bay Area Big Band. I may have told you this, but I remember hearing the Reef Band back in the early 80's; indeed, it was hearing you then, when I was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, which sparked my interest in big band music. I remember spending the next afternoon teaching myself to play STRING OF PEARLS on my alto sax. Years later, not only am I teaching big band music to my students at East, but accepting the invitation to play in your band. Now, after having played the first concert of the Bay Area Big Band (a concert on which my own students were invited to play A STRING OF PEARLS with the pro's) the circle is complete!

Finally, the experience that you and the Bay Area Big Band provided for my students last Friday is beyond value. My kids were so excited to play on a gig with professional musicians! They loved the combined number, and have been buzzing about the Big Band part of the concert. Several of my students apparently went home after the concert (9:30 PM on a Friday) got their horns out and practiced; then were at it the next morning! That's what I'm talking about, Chris: an experience beyond value.

I look forward to the wonderful opportunities the Bay Area Music Foundation will bring to the young musicians of our area, I thank you for the momentum that last Friday's concert has created and I can't wait until the next gig with the Bay Area Big Band.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Deneen", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Deneen