



March 30, 2007

Hello Ralph,

I pray that the past few weeks have been good to you. I can well imagine that traveling to the United States is very exhausting. Given that fact, you must know that your work with the WELS Honour Band was truly remarkable! I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the way in which you inspired our students, made them laugh and feel at ease, and how you prepared them in two short days for a great performance, sentiments which are shared by all of us directors.

I want to take this time to also thank you for the commission you did for our festival, "All Loves Excelling." It is rare to be in the audience for the premiere of a musical work. Not only did our audience enjoy that opportunity, but even more so, could not have asked for a more inspiring performance! It will be a memory that the band participants will carry with them for a lifetime. I also know that the directors who participated in the antiphonal brass choir very much appreciated being a part of such an emotional performance.

On a personal note, I want to thank you for all you did to make this festival memorable. I will treasure forever the events of this past weekend. Your timely communication, openness to making a difficult schedule work, and sharing your love of music with us made hosting a festival such as this very enjoyable. Gaining a Christian brother in the process makes it all the more special to me!

I thank you, and offer God's blessings to you, Ralph. Please also greet your wife and family for me.

Sincerely,

James R. Neujahr