



November 24, 2019

Rank, Tenure, & Promotion Committee
Roberts Wesleyan College
2301 Westside Drive
Rochester, NY 14624

Dear Members of the Committee:

It is my distinct pleasure to write this letter advocating Dr. Adam Potter's case for tenure at Roberts Wesleyan College. I have been blessed to know Adam Potter since our early days as undergraduate student peers at Houghton College in 2004. Adam immediately became someone I looked up to as a young conductor, accompanist, and music educator. Above all, and being completely honest, I most admired Adam as a thoughtful articulator of his views. Adam's strong opinions on theology, non-musical topics in the liberal arts, choral music, and literacy in music education pushed me to better define my own viewpoints. After Houghton, Adam and I followed similar career paths teaching vocal music in the public schools, graduate degrees in choral conducting performance, and now the tenure track of higher education in music. Through all those experiences and still now, I am grateful to call Adam a friend, confidant, and a beloved colleague in the field.

Despite being far away in Nashville, I continue to follow Adam's career, and his professional activities never cease to impress. Adam works tirelessly as a guest conductor having already been invited to share his craft in ten different states and internationally in his very young career. He also presents regularly on vital topics in the choral music field at conferences and choral intensives throughout the eastern United States. I was fortunate to hear him present at the Southern Region Conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Louisville in 2018. His scholarship, sequencing, poise, and polish in presenting were of the highest caliber and represented Roberts well as an institution centered on effective pedagogy out of service to its students.

Adam is a true collaborator, as is seen in joint performances with Alfred University, the Rochester Oratorio Society, and the western New York high school honor choir festivals he coordinates. True to his innovative nature, the Roberts Chorale's presence on social media is *the* model I use in conversations with my administration as we develop our own platform. Adam's approach to promoting the choral activities of Roberts Wesleyan is truly cutting edge. In a 21st century where we must continue to educate society on the artistic necessity of choral singing, Adam is truly a leader in the field. As a Director of Choral Activities at a sister school in the Consortium of Christian Colleges and Universities, I continually evaluate my own programming and performing choices against his.

I have been fortunate to hear several recordings of Adam's choirs online. Not surprisingly, Adam maintains a philosophy of vocal freedom in the choral ensemble setting. This approach allows students to build upon the instruction they receive in the private applied studio to develop their unique God-given instrument. Many conductors stifle this growth at the critical moments of development at the undergraduate level in pursuit of an artificially pure tone. I have reviewed syllabi and curricula in courses Adam teaches. What is abundantly clear in all his teaching materials is the passion Adam has for training young people for the vocation in music or music education that God has called them.

In personal conversations with Adam, student profile writeups and choir reflection videos online, and the stated mission of Roberts Chorale, it is plain to see that Adam keeps Christ at the center of all artistic activities of the choral program. Adam is providing true "education for character," and his brief time in higher education to date is already resulting in a generation of future teachers, performers, and church musicians whose musical abilities are grounded in a love for the Creator and His created.

I have no doubt that Adam's personal and professional accomplishments to date are just the beginning of a vibrant and effective career. It is my honor to heartily endorse Dr. Adam Potter's petition for tenure. If you wish to discuss Adam further, do not hesitate to contact me at the information below. It would be my pleasure to continue the conversation of my respect and admiration for him.

Sincerely,



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