

September 20, 2016

Members of the Committee:

Thanks for your interest. This is my personal statement, and what follows is a timeline of my experience.

I was born and raised in Kansas City in 1960 and graduated from Shawnee Mission Northwest in 1978; at the time it was one of the top ten high schools in the United States. I have a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Performance from Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (1983), a Master of Arts degree in Music Theory and Composition from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX (1986), and a Doctor of Arts degree in Saxophone Performance from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS (2007). These school experiences were excellent and varied, but I really covered quite a bit of ground in the interim between my M.A. and D.M.A.

During 1986-1988 I was a graduate teaching assistant in Jazz Studies at the University of Northern Colorado, where in 1988 I was the Associate Director of the Jazz Studies Department. This is a very prestigious jazz school just outside of Denver. I studied saxophone performance/pedagogy, and was schooled in every aspect of jazz pedagogy, i.e. program-planning, festival production, conducting and rehearsal techniques, and concert management. While there I worked with the finest jazz musicians in the world. I also submitted grant applications to the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as coordinated the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual UNC/Greeley Vocal Jazz Festival. In 1989-1990 I was an Artist-in-Residence at the South Australian College of Advance Education in Adelaide, South Australia. There I taught, jazz history, jazz improvisation, vocal jazz, saxophone, made many international connections, and reorganized the jazz studies department.

In 1989 I returned to Kansas City with an opportunity to perform with B-3 master, Everette DeVan. Very quickly I joined the K.C. Bottoms Band and began a five-year stint performing four nights a week at the Tuba Club on S.W. Blvd. By 1991 I had become President of the Kansas City Jazz Ambassadors. During my tenure this group was at its peak production, and I initiated goals and project for them that are available on request. Please call Mike and Vicki Rollf for a candid assessment of my performance with KCJA, at (913) 226-6905. They can address my ability to manage, motivate and retain quality staff, as well as my ability to put my ideas and vision into practice.

During this same time I was a member of K.C. Mayor Dick Berkeley's Jazz Commission, was involved in two productions of the Kansas City Jazz Lovers Pub Crawl, one of which was sponsored by Hennessey and had over 10,000 audience participants. I also supervised several mini pub crawls and produced the Kansas City Jazz and Blues: Nightlife Survival Kit with a generous grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

In 1992 and 1993 I did two summer residencies with the Aspen Jazz Festival. These were all-expense paid sabbaticals to perform four-weeks in a big band with the best in national jazz talent. We backed up Mel Tormé, Joe Williams, Bob Mintzer, Nick Brignola, Jim Pugh, Lew Sollof, and more.

In 1994, my wife and I raised \$150,000 and opened the Drum Room, a jazz club in the Westport Shopping Center, and started my own band, Boko Maru. My wife Patti did the books and the bookings, and I ran the stage and sound for shows. We produced just under 100 national acts in the two short years we were able to sustain the business. And then I went into bankruptcy. Ouch, but I learned many good lessons about business and finance though the highs and the lows.

I continued performing with Bokomaru through 2000, and we produced an excellent recording entitled Dreamland. In my opinion it is still one of the best productions of original music to come out of Kansas City. As well I taught briefly at Paseo High School and the Metropolitan Community College, and developed a studio of 30 students at the Toon Shop music store in Prairie Village, KS.

In 1999 I became the Director of Jazz Studies and Instructor of Saxophone at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. I taught coursework in jazz and classical music, as well as producing the Annual Coleman Hawkins Invitational Collegiate Jazz Festival. For an assessment of my performance please call Dr. Kirt Saville, Director of the School of Music at Brigham Young University, at 801-422-7423.

In 2005 I resigned this position and devoted myself full-time to finishing my doctorate. After the bankruptcy my wife and I put all of our money into computers and she began an internet advertising company, which went very big for us financially. For the next two years I was the Artistic Director of the Coleman Hawkins Jazz Festival in Topeka, KS. I booked the talent, organized the facilities and the roster, ran the sound, and more. At that time I was also serving on the board of the Topeka Jazz Workshop and the Topeka Community Concert Association. Please give Dr. William (Bill) Leifer a call regarding my performance, at (785) 633-5262. He was the Executive Director.

In 2007 I completed the D.M.A. degree and we relocated back the Overland Park, to be closer to extended family, and to put our children into the Blue Valley school system. (It is excellent) I taught as an adjunct at the University of Kansas, worked professionally, and did mini-courses with the Osher Institute of Lifelong Learning, where I met Dr. Roger Kugler.

In 2010 Roger had become the Chair of Music at Ottawa University, a small private school in Ottawa, Kansas, and he hired me to create a jazz studies program from scratch. When I arrived we had nothing. Now we have an active department with a talented cohesive faculty, excellent though *spartan* facilities, and 60 participating students, comprising a jazz ensemble, four jazz combos, and a vocal jazz ensemble. Please give Roger a call at (816) 213-9285. He is now in charge of the International

Music program at Park University, and will be able to furnish the details of my performance for Ottawa University, especially my ability to create academic programming and organize recruiting events.

As an employee I work well independently or on a team. I am very quick with assessments and priorities, and in fulfilling the mandates of a mission. In support of budgets, I have done fund-raising with Alumni Associations, Not-for-Profit Groups, and Independent Entities. I have organized and performed in countless benefits events.

I have a thorough knowledge of big band music. I have been performing in jazz ensembles since 1974. I have been conducting jazz ensembles since 1984, and I have over 1,500 hours at the podium. That's over a thousand rehearsals I've directed, not counting any of the combos, saxophone quartets, rock bands, or vocal jazz ensembles. Nor any of the ensembles in which I have been a participant.

I know nearly every jazz musician in Kansas City. Bill McKemy is the Director of Educational Programming at the American Jazz Museum. His number is (816) 582-5065. He can speak to my networking abilities. Not only am I well connected in the Kansas City Community. I am very good friends with the directors of Jazz Studies at the University of Kansas, the University of Missouri, C.M.S.U., U.M.K.C., Kansas State University, and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. As well, I know nearly every high school band director in Kansas and most of Missouri.

In summary: I have extensive teaching, performing, and recording experience. I have significant management, event production and fundraising experience. I have grant-writing and community organization leadership experience, and have several friends who are experts in this regard. I have excellent writing and communication skills. I have done budgets for small business, jazz festivals, music departments, and not-for-profit groups. My strong suits are interpersonal, time management and organizational skills; they are key to my past successes, Academically and Professionally. Please call me anytime, or stop by the Green Lady Lounge any Friday between 5:30-8:30PM, and I'll be happy to play your requests.

Sincerely,

Todd R. Wilkinson