



May 10, 2025

Phi Beta Mu Eta Chapter Membership Committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Carroll Gotcher for admission to Phi Beta Mu's Eta Chapter. Mr. Gotcher serves as the band director at Jackson County Tennessee and has consistently demonstrated an exceptional dedication to his students and the music program.

In Jackson County, one of Tennessee's most economically challenged regions, Mr. Gotcher's work is particularly impactful. He provides not only musical instruction but also mentorship and support, enriching the lives of his students and fostering a sense of community. His ability to inspire and motivate students, despite limited resources, is truly commendable.

Mr. Gotcher's leadership and teaching skills are evident in the progress and achievements of the Jackson County band. Additionally, he demonstrates a deep commitment to music education, serving as a leader for the band directors in his proximity, going above and beyond to serve our profession.

I believe Mr. Gotcher would be an invaluable asset to Phi Beta Mu and I highly recommend him for membership.

Sincerely,

David Aydelott

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm and full support that I write on behalf of David Aydelott's nomination of Carroll Gotcher for membership into Phi Beta Mu. In a school system where one might expect a revolving door of band directors, Carroll has built and sustained a program of excellence that not only thrives but serves as a beacon of hope and pride for his students and his community.

Under Carroll's leadership, his program has consistently achieved Superior ratings at Concert Performance Assessment and Superior ratings at MTSBOA Solo and Ensemble. Yet, Carroll's influence extends far beyond the scores and ratings. He has cultivated a culture of excellence, resilience, and heart in a rural community where the poverty rate is nearly double the state average (27.75% in Jackson County compared to Tennessee's 14%). In a place where challenges could easily overshadow opportunity, Carroll has been a steady, inspiring force for countless young men and women, modeling daily what it means to be an exceptional educator and human being.

Carroll's tireless commitment to providing opportunities for his students knows no bounds. In one extraordinary example, he became certified to teach AP Physics so that students at Jackson County High School could have access to a level of education otherwise unavailable to them. This spirit of selflessness and dedication is not limited to his band room. Carroll has been a cornerstone of the strong band director community in the Upper Cumberland area through his leadership with the Twin Lakes Small Band Association. His initiatives — from creating an honor band, establishing a solo and ensemble event, organizing a summer in-service for directors, starting a book club, and more — have strengthened and uplifted directors and programs across the region.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Carroll is a mentor, a friend, and a source of constant encouragement to those around him. He is never too busy to lend advice, share resources, or simply offer a listening ear to fellow directors. His impact is profound and lasting, and it is clear that the lives he touches — both students and colleagues alike — are forever better for having known him.

Phi Beta Mu would be privileged to welcome a member of Carroll Gotcher's caliber. His energy, commitment, and love for music education have only grown stronger with time, and he embodies every ideal that Phi Beta Mu holds dear.

I offer my highest recommendation for Carroll's induction without reservation.

Sincerely,
Lisa Burden
Assistant Director of Band
Tulahoma City Schools



Benjamin Easley
Director of Bands
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25 April 2025

To Members of Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity - Eta Chapter (TN):

It is my pleasure and privilege to recommend Mr. Carroll Gotcher for active membership.

Over the course of my Tennessee band experiences (as both a former public school band student and a current music educator), I have experienced and deeply respected Mr. Gotcher's work and legacy. From marching and concert band events to conferences and professional development sessions, these experiences have afforded me a number of opportunities to become well-acquainted with Mr. Gotcher as an educator, musician, and individual.

Mr. Gotcher may be accurately described as an ambitious music educator with great realized strengths in both instructional aptitude and determined preparation. A dedicated, enthusiastic teacher, he commits himself to careful, intentional preparation and efforts inside and outside the band room, yielding consistent successes and achievements in his rehearsals and performances with his Jackson County band students. I have witnessed Mr. Gotcher demonstrate high levels of professionalism and poise in his interactions with students, colleagues, parents, and administrators. He presents himself as calm, confident, and competent in all of his endeavors as a music educator.

Mr. Gotcher is tenacious, motivated, and dedicated to developing his students as young musicians and humans. His established work ethic and integrity are known and respected statewide in our profession. Mr. Gotcher is a conscientious and indispensable member of the rural Gainesboro community, facilitating the success of the Jackson County band program (for *three* decades!) with his unique brand of logic, wit, intentionality, and appropriately high expectations for all students.

An effective advocate for music education and secondary school band programs, Mr. Gotcher most recently presented a profound session at our annual state professional development conference, representing the realized potential and unique qualities of band programs in our rural communities; the rich, moving performances and remarks from his students, parents, and administrators affirmed the tireless efforts of Mr. Gotcher to effect positive, lasting change.

Upon consideration of Mr. Gotcher's comprehensive résumé and submissions, I know you will encounter a highly qualified candidate for membership in our beloved chapter. As his colleague, I will continue celebrating Mr. Gotcher's successes and recognition as a quality music educator.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if I may offer additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Easley