

5/14/2025

Dear Chairman Scott and Members of the Nomination Committee:

Please accept my recommendation for the nomination of candidate Alex Rector, Director of Bands at Hardin Valley Academy, near Knoxville, TN.

As you may reference from the list of accomplishments included in his portfolio, Alex has demonstrated a consistent trend of excellence, not only with the HVA Concert Bands, but in almost all facets of the modern school band program, including tremendous success in the pageantry arts. He is not only skilled in program and show design, his organizational skills have allowed the operation of multiple ensembles, both musical and visual, to flourish.

On a personal level, in every professional conversation I have had with Alex, he has been thoughtful, even-keel, aware and respectful of other perspectives, and always offering solutions, not problems. He is a great supporter of ETSBOA (he routinely hosts our Fall in-person meeting at HVA) and always goes about Association business as a true professional.

Thank you for your consideration of Alex Rector as candidate for membership in Phi Beta Mu.

Sincerely,

Jim Burton
Cleveland High School



Bearden High School Band

Dear Members of the Phi Beta Mu Membership Selection Committee,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Alex Rector for membership in Phi Beta Mu. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Alex since the beginning of his appointment at Hardin Valley Academy, in Knoxville, TN. Throughout this time, Alex has consistently demonstrated exceptional professionalism, dedication, and expertise in the music profession.

Alex exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism and artistic excellence as seen by the accomplishments and accolades of the Hardin Valley Academy Band Program. He consistently demonstrates a passion for music education and performance, as well as a deep commitment to student development and community engagement. Through the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, I have had opportunity to work with Alex as he has served as a clinician host and meeting site host. Additionally, he has served on the board of the East Tennessee Performing Arts Association in several positions including that of president. Most recently, he is serving as a professional learning specialist for Knox County Schools for instrumental music. Whether leading his ensemble or serving in a professional capacity, I feel that he always demonstrates the highest level of professionalism and excellence.

As an individual, Alex is thoughtful about balancing the priorities of his personal family and his band family. He takes the time to take care of his students and the successes of his wife and child. He has been a positive role model for student interns and continues to offer his assistance to ensuring the excellence of our organizations and community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider his application. Considering Alex's outstanding qualifications, dedication, contributions, and character within and outside of our field, I am confident that he would be a worthy member of Phi Beta Mu. I strongly recommend and support his membership and believe he would exemplify ideals of moral integrity and the development and achievements of bands.

Sincerely,

Megan Christian

Director of Bands, Bearden High School

President-Elect, East Tennessee School Band & Orchestra Association

Bearden High School Band

8352 Kingston Pike | Knoxville, TN 37919 | beardenband.com



Phi Beta Mu Nomination Committee Chair Justin Scott, and Committee Members:

I am writing to nominate an excellent candidate to our esteemed fraternity, Mr Alex Rector. Alex has been the Director of Bands at Hardin Valley Academy since the fall of 2015. He has made a significant contribution to music education in his school (HVA), Knox County Schools and East Tennessee.

Alex Rector went to school at Halls High School under the direction of Mark Connell and Greg Basham. He then graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2009 with a B.M in Music Education and a Masters in Music Education in 2010. He studied Trumpet with Dr. Cathay Leach and conducting with Dr. Michael Stewart and Dr. Donald Ryder.

During college, Alex marched one summer with the Carolina Crown Drum & Bugle Corp and then worked all throughout the next couple of years with the Halls High Marching Band and Indoor Percussion Ensemble. He helped to shape the early years of the Halls Indoor Percussion Ensemble and was a key member of the design and teaching staff that helped that group reach finals in 2011.

After college, Alex began his career for one year working with the Karns High School Band part-time and then was hired as the Assistant Band Director at HVA. Alex was heavily involved in running and organizing the HVA Colorguard program in the fall and winter seasons. The Hardin Valley Winterguard is one of the strongest programs in the East Tennessee Region each year, including this current season.

In 2015, Mr. Rector stepped into the role of Director of Bands at HVA and has led all ensembles to reach success on the stage, field and floor. Alex was elected President of the East Tennessee Performing Arts Association in 2021-2022. He helped to guide the circuit through the pandemic, virtual and in-person performances and the organization began to thrive during that time.

I have known Alex for twenty-one years. First as a senior at Halls High School, then as an eager college student wanting to work teaching music sectionals, drill, visual fundamentals with the Halls High Band and Indoor Percussion, then as a colleague, who call often for advice and guidance on music selections, rehearsal techniques and just to

“catch up!” His ensembles are some of the very best year in and year out in Knox County, East Tennessee and beyond. Alex is a dedicated father, husband, and director. His commitment to his students and band make Alex Rector an excellent nominee for our organization. I recommend Alex Rector without any reservations for membership into Phi Beta Mu.

Sincerely,

Eric C. Baumgardner
Director of Bands, Halls High School

I have listed below some of the accomplishments with the HVA Band below during his tenure:

Hardin Valley Academy Band
Under the Assistance or Direction of Alex Rector
2011-2015 Assistant Director at HVA
2015-Present Director at HVA

Concert Ensembles

- Wind Ensemble invited to perform at the 2023 UTC Tri-State Honor Band Festival
- Appeared in TMEA State Concert Festival: 2018, 2016

Wind Ensemble

- Superior Rating in Grade VI: 2024, 2022, 2020, 2019
- Superior Rating in Grade V: 2017

Symphonic Band

- Superior Rating in Grade V: 2024
- Superior Rating in Grade IV: 2020, 2017, 2016

Marching Band

- 7 time Bands of America Regional Championship Finalist
- Alabama Regional (2010, 2011-3rd place class AAA, 2021, 2022)
- East Tennessee Regional (2021, 2024)
- Chattanooga Regional (2023)
- 2 time Contest of Champions Finalist (2013, 2016)
- 2 time WCU Tournament of Champions Finalist (2012, 2018-Reserve Grand Champion)

Indoor Percussion

- WGI Regional Champion (PSO-2024 Knoxville)
- 4 time WGI Regional Medalist (PSO)
- 4 time WGI Regional Finalist (PSO)
- 3 time ETPAA Scholastic Open Champion (2021, 2022, 2023)
- WGI World Championships A Class Semifinalist (2014)
- WGI Regional Champion (PSA-2020 Knoxville)
- 6 time WGI Regional Medalist (PSA)
- 9 time WGI Regional Finalist (PSA)
- ETPAA Scholastic A Champion (2019)
- CIPA Scholastic A Champion (2013)

Indoor Winds

- WGI World Championships A Class Finalist (2022)
- WGI Regional Champion (2022 Knoxville)
- 3 time WGI Regional Finalist
- 3 time ETPAA Scholastic A Champion (2021, 2022, 2023)

Winter Guard

- WGI Regional Champion (SO-2025 Knoxville)
- WGI Regional Medalist (SO)
- WGI Regional Finalist (SO)
- ETPAA Scholastic Open Champion (2025)
- 2 time WGI World Championships A Class Semifinalist (2015, 2022)
- 2 time WGI Regional Medalist (SA)
- 11 time WGI Regional Finalist (SA)
- 3 time ETPAA Scholastic A Champion (2021, 2023, 2024)
- CIPA Scholastic A Champion (2013)
- WGI Regional Champion (SRA-2020 Knoxville)
- 5 time WGI Regional Medalist (SRA)
- 5 time WGI Regional Finalist (SRA)
- 2 time ETPAA Scholastic Regional A Champion (2021, 2024)
- ETPAA Prep Champion (2024)