

December 4, 2023

Board of Trustees
Cleveland Institute of Music
11021 East Blvd
Cleveland, OH 44106

Subject: From the Students of Michael Sachs

Dear Members of the Board,

In recent months, the Cleveland Institute of Music has lost credibility in the world of elite music education. All alumni have been concerned about the institution's path, and now, after the terrible and avoidable resignation of Michael Sachs, it is clear to us that CIM is in crisis.

We are Cleveland Institute of Music alumni and current and former students of Michael Sachs. We represent over 30 years of achievement at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the global reach of Michael's pedagogy. Collectively, we perform with the world's top ensembles, teach at top music programs, run some of the country's most notable ensembles, and serve as industry leaders in fields outside of music.

Michael has been the heartbeat of the brass department for decades and is an irreplaceable asset to the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has molded the culture of your world-renowned institution, which is largely based on the unique and ample access to him and the Cleveland Orchestra. Michael's renown as an educator, his enormous reach as an author, the reputation of his students, his incredible sound, and his unique insight into one of the world's greatest ensembles inspired us all to pack up and chase our hopes and dreams in Cleveland's University Circle.

The fact that Michael's character and intentions at CIM are being questioned is unfathomable. Michael has a proven record of helping his students balance the incredible demands of life as a performer with the well-being, mental health, and conditioning required to lead a happy life. By following his example, his students learn that being ethical, finely tuned collaborators and listeners on and off stage are all pieces to the picture of success. The accomplishments of his students are a testament to the efficacy of his work at CIM.

We implore you, as board members entrusted with steering our beloved institution, to examine closely the priorities of CIM and the recent events that have disrupted decades of achievement. We write to you with hope and optimism that there is a path in which CIM's relationship with Michael and his students can be restored. We all want to remain proud alumni of the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Sincerely,

Alberto Gutierrez, 1990

Colorado Music Festival, General Manager

Mike Cox, MM 1991

Symphony of the Redwoods, Fort Bragg California, Principal Trumpet

David Duro, 1991

SUNY Fredonia, Adjunct Lecturer of Trumpet

Susan Sievert Messersmith, PS 1992

*Charleston Southern University, Adjunct Trumpet Instructor
Charleston Symphony Orchestra,
Former Second Trumpet*

Mary Thornton, MM 1993

*Texas A&M-Corpus Christi,
Professor of Trumpet*

Heather Zweifel, BM 1993

*Michigan State University - Asst. Professor of Trumpet
Burning River Brass, Co-Founder and Trumpet*

Bryan Appleby-Wineberg, MM 1994

*Rowan University, Professor of Trumpet, Head of Brass,
Chair-Department of Music*

Jonathan Fields, MM 1994

Fort Worth Symphony, Former Second Trumpet

Dawn Weber, BM 1994

*University of Missouri–St. Louis,
Trumpet Instructor and Jazz Director*

Kevin Lyons, BM 1995

*Miami City Ballet Orchestra,
Atlanta Ballet Orchestra,
Greenville Symphony Orchestra,
and Nu-Deco Ensemble, Principal Trumpet*

Scott Sabo, BM 1995

Chris Kiradjieff, MM 1996

*Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra,
Third/Utility Trumpet*

Christopher Bubolz, MM 1997

Benjamin Wright, BM 1997

*Boston Symphony Orchestra,
Second Trumpet
New England Conservatory,
Faculty*

Isaac Pulford, BM 1998

*Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra,
Second Trumpet and Personnel Manager
Malaysia Philharmonic Orchestra,
Former Second Trumpet*

Teppei Suzuki, BM 1998

*RENTARO Chamber Orchestra
KYUSHU (Japan), Principal Trumpet
Elizabeth University of Music,
Trumpet Faculty*

Donald Burks, MM 1999

Stephen Chapdelaine, MM 2000

Anant Patel, 2000

*Emergency Medicine Physician
Fort Worth Civic Orchestra,
Trumpet*

Jonathan Rattay, MM 2000

United States Air Force Heritage of America Band

Adam Luftman, BM 2001

*San Francisco Opera and Ballet Orchestras, Principal Trumpet
San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Head-Brass Department*

Loren Toplitz, MM 2001

*Akron Symphony Orchestra, Third Trumpet
Lancaster Festival Orchestra,
Second Trumpet
Firelands Symphony Orchestra,
Principal Trumpet
Cleveland Institute of Music -
Trumpet Faculty, Joint Music Program and Preparatory
Cleveland Institute of Music Alumni Association - Past President*

David Costello, BM 2002

Peter Miller, MM 2002

*West Australian Symphony Orchestra,
Second Trumpet*

Shaun Abraham, MM 2003

Dallas Winds, Trumpet

John Freeman, BM 2003, MM 2005

*San Francisco Chamber Orchestra,
Principal Trumpet*

Derrick Stauffer, MM 2003

Morten Hetland, MM 2004

Malmö Opera (Sweden), Principal Trumpet

Emma Kail, MM 2004

*Grand Teton Music Festival,
Executive Director
Kansas City Symphony,
Former General Manager*

Sarah Viens, BM 2004

*Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra
and Symphony Tacoma, Principal
Trumpet*

William Day, BM 2005

*Metropolitan Opera, Associate
Musician - Trumpet
New York Philharmonic, Extra
musician - Trumpet
Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra,
Former Second Trumpet*

**John Armstrong, BM 2006,
MM 2008**

Michael Attaway, MM 2006

*The Covenant School, Director of
Fine Arts*

Erik Hasselquist, AD 2007

Eric Brown, MM 2008

**Joseph Connors, BM 2008,
MM 2009**

Colin Sieg, BM 2008

*Odyssey Space Research/NASA,
Software Engineer*

Cheonho Yoon, PS 2008

*Yomiuri Nippon Symphony
Orchestra (Japan), Trumpet*

Alexander Pride, BM 2009

*Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra,
Second Trumpet*

**Malachy Rodriguez,
MM 2009**

Adam Zinatelli, 2009

*Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra,
Principal Trumpet*

Mark Maliniak, MM 2010

*Atlanta Symphony Orchestra,
Acting Assoc. Principal Trumpet*

Conrad Jones, BM 2011

*Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra,
Principal Trumpet*

Kyle Dobbeck, MM 2012

*Office of Medical Education at The
George Washington University,
Assistant Director*

Dr. Leah J. Hodge, MM 2012

*Scottsdale Symphonic Orchestra
and North Valley Symphony,
Principal Trumpet*

Nina Bell, MM 2013

Marc Sutton, MM 2013

**SSrgt Ryan Columbare,
MM 2014**

*United States Army, US Army
School of Music Instructor*

Gillian Gollamudi, MM 2014

Michael Terrasi, BM 2014

*Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra,
Extra Musician - Trumpet*

Dominic Favia, BM 2015

Michael Harper, MM 2016

*National Symphony Orchestra,
Assistant Principal Trumpet*

James Stinson, MM 2016

*Metric Coffee Co., Education –
Project and Account Manager*

Charles Miller, MM 2017

Justin Rowan, MM 2017

*Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra,
Former Principal Trumpet*

Paul Torrisi, MM 2017

Utah Symphony, Second Trumpet

Kevin Karabell, MM 2018

*Jacksonville Symphony, Principal
Trumpet*

Garrett Lindholm, MM 2018

*Lansing Symphony Orchestra and
Erie Philharmonic, Former Second
Trumpet*

Amy Thomas, MM 2019

*US Army Old Guard Fife and Drum
Corps, DC*

**Luis Clebsch, BM 2020, MM
2022**

Daniel Gelman, MM 2020

Jamie Gorski, BM 2020

Luke Hamilton, BM 2020

Johnathon Pitts, PS 2020

Joseph Keller, 2022

Emma Kosht, BM 2023

Adam Warnke, MM 2023

*Longmont Symphony Orchestra,
Second Trumpet*

Alisa Crüger-Cain, BM 2024

Current CIM student

Jeremy Bryant, BM 2025

*NYO USA 2020
Current CIM student*

Sebastian Cole, MM 2025

Current CIM student

Elijah Leonard, BM 2026

Current CIM student

Jamie Walton Jr., BM 2026

Current CIM student