

February 12, 2009

Statement from David Commanday

“I am distressed at the situation that is now unfolding before Peoria regarding its orchestra, and deeply regret that this situation has become so public and bitter. It was my hope not to comment on the events that have unfolded in the past nine months.

An orchestra should be a source of energy, light and positive regeneration for the community and not the focus of strife, anger and bitter recriminations.

I wish that this whole affair had never seen the light of day. That the curtain had never been lifted on the hard work and debates that take place behind the scenes as all of us professionals work to bring music at the highest level to our audiences. It is not always an easy process, and not all of our interactions are harmonious and not all endings are happy. I wish, however, that the means by which this series of behind the scenes disagreements over the different roles that we play in the production of fine music had not come to light. This has become my community-our kids have grown up here and we are now from here. And if my time as the music director of this wonderful orchestra was going to come to an end, I would have loved for it to end elegantly and harmoniously, with mutual praise all around, and fond memories to last a lifetime.

We are professionals, and we care deeply about our art, our work, and the direction of this orchestra. Sometimes, we care a bit too much, it seems, and passions become high. This indecorous airing of our disagreements is a great disappointment to me, as it brings unseemly disharmony to the ears of an audience whose approval I and our fine musicians have sought to earn for the past nine years.

I appeal for all supporters of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra to remember that this institution is of vital importance to our community, and its health and well-being far outweigh any music director's welfare.”

David Commanday