

## Music Director Candidate Questions - Andrew Grams

1. *What instrument do you play?* {Violin}
2. *At what point did you know you wanted to conduct?* {Around 21 years-old, after playing in orchestras professionally for a couple years.}
3. *Who is your favorite composer right now?* {Anyone who has written stuff I think is super-cool!}
4. *Is there one great work that is on your “bucket list” to conduct?* {Not one particular work, but if I ever get to conduct the New Year’s Day Concert with the Vienna Philharmonic, I will retire immediately afterwards.}
5. *What are you looking forward to doing when you visit Kalamazoo?* {With whatever free time I might have, I’d love to go the Air Zoo!!!—did I mention I like flying?}
6. *What are your hobbies/interests outside of the music world?* {TV series, golf, flying}
7. *If I got in your car and turned on the radio right now, what would I hear?*  
{Believe it or not, I don’t listen to music in the car. It is very easy for me to get carried away and I would collect many speeding tickets.}
8. *If you could have lunch with any composer, dead or alive, who would you choose and why?* {John Williams—because he is such a sweet man who has created the music of my childhood as well as having worked with the best orchestras and artists in the world. He has so many stories!}
9. *What role do you see symphony orchestras fulfilling in today’s arts and entertainment world?* {We are collectively experiencing a period in history which has more offerings of arts & entertainment than ever before—and most of it is available wherever and whenever thanks to technology. I think the live performance is experiencing a renaissance in reaction to the digital revolution not just because of the unique ‘this-will-happen-only-this-one-time’ aspect of live performance, but because of the feature of shared-experience or communion. Sharing time, space, and attention with many others is something I believe we humans deeply appreciate and crave, especially in this age of fragmentation and, to borrow from the title of a book, [living] “Alone Together.”}
10. *How would you define your style on the podium?* {I would say ‘appropriately demonstrative,’ but I’ve been told that I’m a dancer.}
11. *What is your favorite part of working with professional orchestras?* {The amount of collective experience in any professional orchestra makes getting the sounds I want very easy. Most everyone on the stage has much music/life experience to draw upon when creating potent musical moments. It isn’t just about high energy and excitement—much of what orchestras play was born of much life experience in various trying circumstances, and trying to truthfully communicate all that requires musicians that have their fair share of personal experience.}
12. *What is your favorite food?* {At various times, it can be: Chinese, Korean, Italian, Vegetarian, Hot dogs/Hamburgers, Japanese....oh, the list can go on and on!}