4-27-1904

Letters between William Kerr and Oscar Kirkham as well as a recommendation from J. A. Anderson.

William Kerr
Utah State University

Oscar A. Kirkham

J. A. Anderson

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April 27, 1904.

Mr. Oscar Kirkham,

Rexburg, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

Your name has been given me in connection with an opening there will be in the Agricultural College of Utah next year in the Department of Music for a person who will be able to take charge of the department, and who would have charge, personally, of the choir, and such quartet and other similar work as may be called for, in addition to any individual work he may be able to do in voice culture or on the piano.

We want three specialists—one for voice training, one for piano work, and one for violin work. The professor in charge of the department would receive compensation from the College sufficient to justify his looking after the interests of the department, and doing the work indicated above, in addition to which he would receive students' fees for individual work. The other two would probably have to depend upon fees received from the students for compensation. The College, however, would furnish rooms heated and lighted, and would render any further assistance possible in the development of the work.

If you care to consider the matter of taking charge of the department, I shall be pleased to have you write me at once, stating the work you have completed in a general educational way, naming the subjects you have pursued, in what institutions you have studied, etc.; also work you have done in music, and in what institutions and for what length of time. State also what musical work you are most interested, and about what compensation you would expect for the first year. I shall be pleased, too, to have you give me any other information that might be helpful in considering your application.

As I have not had the pleasure of meeting you, if it should not be convenient for you to visit Logan, I shall be pleased to have you send a photograph.

It is important that we conclude our arrangements for next year at once. I shall, therefore, appreciate an early reply.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

President.
Mr. J. Kerr
President A.C.U.
Logan Utah

Dear Sir,

In answering your letter of
the 27th, I enclose, as requested, a bit of myself. I trust you will not be too severe in your criticism of me by what this may suggest. Perhaps a few general statements will tell you best who I am. I was born in Salt Utah, and attended the B.Y.U. of Provo for three years then to Berlin for three years where I made a special study of music. I was mostly under private teachers, but did attend the Royal High School and quit after six months because of progress being too slow in such classes. On my way home, I spent a few months in Singapore with Prof. Walter of the Royal College. Perhaps the best I know as to what I am good for, will be found in the results of the two months I have spent with this school. As I passed through Rexburg on a concert tour, Mr. Chamberlain made me an offer...
I did not take up the work here at once. I did not like the idea of coming into a small place but the ready money and a chance to work up a school to which I was interested in. I visited nearly every voice of the school and picked out a choir. I also organized a class of about a hundred in the fundamentals of music and sight-reading.

Our choir does the singing tomorrow and the next day at the Tremont Stake Conference. I am bringing a few voices into the work and also a male and a female choir.

Mrs. Paul visited the Academy a short time ago. He can tell you how the music department impressed him, and I had had the school through three weeks.

As to my character, Frances Lyman knew me in Europe, and E.H. Bynum knows me well. My heart is in this line of work and I hope some day to connect myself with a strong school and build up a music department second to none in the western country.

As to compensation for work, I would like to know how much you can offer the head of your music department. The amount of work I would do would depend on the amount you
can offer. The Academy with the Public schools offer me one hundred and fifteen dollars a month. Besides this I will have some private work. They are very anxious for me to promise to return for next year, but the most noble work after the best.

Yours truly,

Oscar F. Kirkland

P.S. I shall appreciate an early reply.
President Geo. F. Brimhall,

B. Y. University, Provo, Utah.

Dear Friend:—

Mr. Oscar Kirkham has applied for a position as Director of the School of Music in the Agricultural College of Utah. He informs me that he was a student at the Brigham Young Academy for three years. I shall very much appreciate it if you will kindly write me at your earliest convenience your candid opinion of Mr. Kirkham, his character, temperament, and scholarship, giving me also the benefit of your judgment as to his ability to do the work in a position where he would have direct charge of the chorus, quartet, and other general work of the department, and as a special teacher in voice culture. He would also have supervision of the work of other instructors in the department of music. If you know anything of him that would be objectionable, or that would be likely to interfere with his success, I shall be glad to have you inform me. Your communication will be regarded as strictly confidential.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

President.
Dear Bro. J. U. Anderson,

I have just returned from Salt Lake City and found your letter in the Post Office. I am not tied up with any school for next year as yet, although I know they expect me to remain there. But I find nothing in Pocatello outside of the money I make that would induce me to remain. I am very grateful to you for the interest you have expressed for my future work. Please let me know to what extent they would like to make the vocal department, and how much they offer for the same. To what extent has this department been built up? A very early answer will be gratefully received. If the work would demand it, I would spend the summer months in Boston to make special preparation for next school year.

Affectionately,

[Signature]

P.S. If possible, let me hear from you at once.
Salt Lake City
April 12, 1804,

Pres. Mr. Kerr,

Dear Sir,

Having accepted an offer made me to work in connection with Prof. Lund at Provo for the next School year, I take the first opportunity to inform you as you will not count on me for next year, if I can assist you again in getting some one I will be glad to do what I can. I will not be on this week as two days will not pay.

Enclosed letter is from Mr. Kirkham who is a good person. If you wish to secure him it will have to be done soon.

Respectfully,

J. Anderson