

VICE ARDEI

► **START HERE:** In compliance with federal regulations and company policy, all employees must complete this form to verify identity and employment authorization. Failure to provide the required documentation may result in termination of employment.

SECTION 1. EMPLOYEE INFORMATION *(an employee must complete form no later than the first day of employment but not before accepting a job offer)*

LAST NAME Ardei		FIRST NAME Vice		MIDDLE INITIAL
ALIAS	AGE 58		PRONOUNS he / him	
HEIGHT 6'1" (185 cm)		DEPARTMENT CONTROL		

SECTION 2. CORE ATTRIBUTES *(These attributes are assessed using a combination of psychological profiling, situational judgment tests, and past performance metrics.)*

FORTITUDE I (+1)	PRUDENCE II (+2)	TEMPERANCE I (+1)	JUSTICE IV (+18)
----------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------

DESCRIPTION

“Can’t you hear it? That beautiful sound...”

airheaded // obsessive // enigmatic // idealistic // controlling

The former chief conductor of a large city’s string orchestra.

On first meeting, Vice Ardei seems like a harmless, if scatterbrained, older man. He gets lost frequently, wanders around with an empty-headed smile on his face, and forgets peoples’ names as soon as he meets them.

If you have the unfortunate fate of being a member of his orchestra, you'll see another side of Vice. The Maestro is strict, controlling, and obsessed with beauty to the point of inhumanity. Disappointment is reserved for the rare few he actually has expectations for. For the rest, his empty expression cuts deeper than disapproving words ever could.

"Are you really happy with that level of performance?"

A ghostlike silence.

"Ah, well... I suppose that's all I should expect from someone like you."

Keeping his attention is an endless struggle - a hopeless endeavor - a Sisyphean task not for the faint of heart.

But people put up with him because he *is* a genius, after all. He's polite enough in public, he does all his paperwork flawlessly and ahead-of-schedule, and he's surprisingly spry for an older guy.

Just don't get into any life-or-death situations with him. He might abandon you without a second thought.

BACKGROUND

tl;dr:

Vice heard a unique, beautiful sound while trapped in a collapsed building as a child. Unbeknownst to him, it was the singing of an Angel. He dedicated the rest of his life to pursuing that sound.

After another accident crushed his left hand and ended his career as a professional violinist, Vice became a conductor at his city's string orchestra.

He took another violinist in the orchestra under his wing and mentored him to greatness; in truth, he was hoping that violinist might be able to do what he couldn't and recreate the sound from his youth.

Eventually the violinist grew tired of his harsh instruction and obsession and exposed his harsh teaching methods to the world. The controversy resulted in Vice being ousted from the orchestra and outcast from the city's classical music scene. His reputation was destroyed.

Vice came to the conclusion that the sound he was seeking likely wasn't reproducible by normal human means. At the same time, the violinist sent him PGE's job listing, claiming he knew someone in the company who could give Vice advice about a change in industry since his musical career was effectively over.

In order to get Vice to take the bait, he suggested that maybe 'the sound' was somehow related to Enkephalin or something else unworldly. He was probably hoping that Vice would get assigned to Antarctica and / or end up dead, but Vice took it seriously and applied.

full text:

As a child, Vice was involved in a large-scale building collapse. All he remembers is being trapped in the dark, sightless for hours on end; the only thing that gave him hope was the wonderful sound that emanated from underneath the rubble.

Even after he was rescued, that sound echoed endlessly in his mind.

Vice grew to be obsessed with finding and replicating that sound.

He entered university and was on the path to becoming one of the prominent violinists of his age when he was involved in another accident - his left hand was crushed and he was unable to play the violin to the same degree again.

At the young age of 30 he was appointed lead conductor of the city orchestra.

Soon after, a young, dark-haired man joined the orchestra. He was a prodigy on the violin and his playing was the closest that Vice had ever come to hearing that sound replicated.

Vice became fixated on this young man's violin.

The violinist rose to fame, popularity, and first chair under his tutelage. On the surface it seemed like the two of them were on the fast track to success and international renown.

Only the people within the orchestra knew the truth about Vice - that despite his airheaded, lighthearted nature in public, he became something else entirely when it came to music.

Any sound that wasn't 'beautiful' was unnecessary in his orchestra.

Any performer who lagged behind vanished from his view.

He was the worst type of genius - the type that doesn't understand the earthly concerns or human limitations of anyone else, and doesn't care to try.

The violinist bore the brunt of this treatment. Vice was stricter with him than with anyone else, singleminded in his pursuit of beauty.

Over the years, doubts took root in Vice's heart - he started to feel that no matter how hard the violinist worked, he wouldn't be able to reproduce the sound Vice was looking for, and everything they'd done together would be worthless and useless. He started to wonder if he should abandon the orchestra and seek his goal a different way.

The violinist decided that if Vice was going to pull away from him, then he would cut Vice off first.

He released a video of Vice's harsh teaching methods to the world. Due to the controversy that ensued, Vice was "heavily encouraged" to take "early retirement" from the orchestra. His reputation in the city's music scene was unsalvageable. He was shunned by everyone who had held him in such high regard before. His reputation was destroyed.

The situation made up Vice's mind for him - he came to the conclusion that not even the violinist he favored so much could accomplish his goal.

He decided that the sound he was seeking likely wasn't reproducible by normal human

means.

After his forced retirement, the violinist sent him PGE's job listing, claiming he knew someone in the company who could give Vice advice about a change in industry since his musical career was effectively over.

In order to get Vice to take the bait, he suggested that maybe the sound he was seeking could be found if he turned to an unknown area of study like Enkephalin. He was probably hoping that Vice would get assigned somewhere far away and end up dead. *Antarctica would be great!*

Vice took the suggestion seriously and applied.

It wasn't like he could do anything else in this city anyways. He had no prospects outside of the music world. Within it, he might have taken up a small-scale teaching or tutoring position if he could find somewhere desperate enough for talent to ignore his reputation and take him in, but the boredom of those sounded worse than death to him.

It made sense to him. Of course he would have to travel to the ends of the earth to search for something so unearthly beautiful.

TRIVIA

- He still plays the violin occasionally, but the sounds he can produce will always be flawed and subpar to him, so he doesn't do it often.
 - It makes him a bit sad.
- He was considered a brilliant violinist and a genius conductor.
 - He doesn't care about how others see him, though.
- His hair is naturally white, it's not just because he's old.
- He has very sensitive hearing.
- The violinist would have killed Vice himself if he'd been able to get away with it.
 - Despite this, the two of them remain on mysteriously good terms.
 - They still regularly talk on the phone.

I attest, under penalty of perjury, that the information provided in this document is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false statements, misrepresentations, or omissions may result in disqualification from employment or disciplinary action, including termination.

SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE

Vice Ardei.

DATE

4/7/2025