

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Mark S. Kirschenmann, Ph.D.**, lecturer IV in the Residential College of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2025.

Dr. Kirschenmann earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in composition with highest honors from Carnegie Mellon University (1991), his Master of Arts degree in composition and music theory from the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester (1995), and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in composition and music theory from the University of Michigan (2002). He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 2002 with a joint appointment in the Residential College (RC) and the School of Music, Theatre & Dance (SMTD).

A composer, trumpeter, improviser, and educator, Dr. Kirschenmann taught courses in creative musicianship, music theory, improvisation, and electronic music. At the RC, he coordinated the Creative Musicianship and Theory Lab sequence, taught Musical Improvisation and Electronic Music: Past, Present and Future, and advised numerous independent studies and senior theses. Known for his innovative, student-centered teaching, he inspired creativity across skill levels. At SMTD, he taught improvisation-based theory courses and directed the Creative Arts Orchestra, a cross-disciplinary ensemble that toured nationally.

Dr. Kirschenmann is internationally recognized for his creative work. His recent solo recordings include *Tonics: 7 Melodies for Trumpet with Bamboo Mouthpipe* (Infrequent Seams, 2025) and *Cybersonic Outreach* (New Focus Recordings, 2021). Known for pioneering an electric trumpet aesthetic, he blends composition, improvisation, and technology, and has collaborated with leading figures in contemporary creative music, including Nicole Mitchell, Wadada Leo Smith, William Hooker, Myra Melford, Kris Davis, and Oliver Lake. He is a founding member of Maschina, Big Fun, Quartex, and E3Q.

As faculty director of the Keene Theater, he oversaw its operations and renovations, supporting a wide range of student, faculty, and guest performances. He also served as interim director of the Center for World Performance Studies, coordinating interdisciplinary faculty and student programs.

The Regents now salute this distinguished artist, teacher, and mentor by naming **Mark S. Kirschenmann, lecturer IV emeritus in the Residential College**.

**Requested by:**



**Jon Kinsey**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**February 2026**