

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Music

Aaron Berofsky, Assistant Professor of Music (String Instruments), without tenure, School of Music, is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of Music (String Instruments), with tenure, School of Music.

Academic Degrees:

M.M.	1992	Juilliard School of Music
B.M.	1990	Juilliard School of Music

Professional Record:

2002- present	Assistant Professor, School of Music University of Michigan
2005-present	Concertmaster, the Ann Arbor Symphony
2003-present	Violin faculty, the Meadowmount School of Music
1992-present	First violinist, the Chester String Quartet Indiana University, South Bend

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching:

Aaron Berofsky is an exceptionally fine and deeply knowledgeable musician and teacher. He is dedicated to his students, giving his time selflessly and enthusiastically to imparting his performing experiences and musical insight. A sensitive and skilled teacher, adept at criticizing without being offensive, he is positive, punctual, organized, and willing to go out of his way to help his students. Berofsky believes in teaching from a variety of different perspectives, and encourages his students to excel in technique, musicality, and ensemble. Students say he has a special ability to analyze, in an acute and detailed way, problems relating to phrasing, musicianship and tone. He sets high standards for his students because he believes in people's innate capacity and wants all of his students to reach their full potential. His presence on the faculty of the renowned Meadowmount School places him at the top of the field among artist/teachers nationally. Students are inspired by Berofsky, both as a performer and as a teacher. He has consistently high teaching ratings as is evidenced by his CRLT ratings.

Professional and Creative Activity:

Professor Berofsky is an internationally acclaimed soloist and chamber musician who continues to enjoy a busy performing schedule throughout the year. As first violinist with the Chester Quartet, he is in constant demand, performing in Europe every season and also playing regularly in New York and Chicago. Additionally, he is concertmaster of the Ann Arbor Symphony, playing with the orchestra several times a year. Among his extensive performing credits is the Canadian ensemble Tafelmusik, the distinguished historical performance ensemble. He brings from this experience a perspective on historically informed performance practice that is an important asset to his students and at the School of Music generally.

Service:

Aaron Berofsky's service contributions have to a large extent been through the String Department, where he is currently serving as the recording secretary for the departmental meetings. He maintains the inventory and use of the bowed instruments under departmental purview through the Stearns Instrument Collection. Berofsky also serves as a judge in the School of Music Concerto Competition final rounds, was a member of the search committee for the

position of University Philharmonic Orchestra and Contemporary Directions Ensemble, and member of the Council of Departmental Representatives. He is also a caring and conscientious advisor to the students in his studio. Other capacities in which he has served the larger University include being Marshall for Commencement, and coaching the Michigan Youth Symphony. Outside of the University, Berfosky serves as a guest clinician, coaching students at Slauson Middle School and Pioneer High School.

External Review:

Reviewer A

“ . . . his credentials and performing history are those of a well-seasoned musician. The qualities of leadership and initiative that he has demonstrated as the first violinist of a distinguished quartet offer immeasurable benefit to a musical institution seeking to provide the best for its students.”

“Mr. Berofsky’s recordings provide evidence of a violinist highly skilled in the performance of both solo and chamber music literature.”

Reviewer B

“ . . . an individual of the highest integrity, musically and personally; in addition, he has wonderful rapport with his colleagues, and the respect of those with whom he works. He has the highest of standards professionally and is considered by his peers to be in the top echelon of performers and teachers.”

Reviewer C

“In reviewing the materials that accompanied your letter, I was reminded of the exceptional breadth of his experience. Accomplished as a chamber musician, concertmaster, soloist with orchestra, and recitalist he will bring distinction to the School of Music through his performances and critical, tested information to his students.”

Reviewer D

“He is most definitely a first rate violinist – the playing is truly beautiful. He seems to have a strong studio, is working at Meadowmount which should help recruitment, and appears to have a strong commitment to his teaching.”

Reviewer E

“Without exaggeration, I believe his musicianship, musical and technical expertise and his personality are on the level I would like to have in my school.”

Reviewer F

“He gave a beautiful performance of the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the orchestra, again demonstrating that Aaron is indeed one of the best violinists of his generation. I do not know his work as a teacher, but as a conductor, observing Aaron as concertmaster, a position demanding teaching ability, I am convinced that he must be a highly qualified instructor.”

Reviewer G

“As a concertmaster, Aaron is a natural leader. His style is authoritative yet respectful of colleagues and, as such, leads by example rather than heavy handed style.”

“ . . . I have always felt a tremendous affinity for Aaron’s musical sensibilities and exemplary technical control of his instrument as first violinist. Of particular note is his impeccable intonation, which made for a wonderful blend and ease of execution.”

“As a soloist in the Sibelius violin concerto, Aaron rendered a compelling, technically brilliant performance of the work. His technical command of the violin was only matched by his mature understanding of the composition.”

Reviewer H

“His sensitivity and intelligence are unique and badly needed in our musical world, where deep and sincere expression is not treasured as it should be.”

Reviewer I

“Without question Professor Berofsky is one of the finest violinists I have ever heard. His playing, while displaying the highest quality of technical precision, is also extremely well thought out, and deeply expressive. “

Reviewer J

“Mr. Berofsky’s curriculum vitae identifies his exceptional ability in a wide range of musical disciplines which include his solo and chamber music performances (both national and international), teaching at the most prestigious summer schools, being involved in technological innovation and contemporary music as well as his experience with orchestral literature.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Berofsky is a highly successful violinist, a frequent and excellent performer, and an inspiring and gifted teacher. As one of the newer members of the violin faculty at the School of Music, he holds promise of maturing into a leading artistic and pedagogical presence and recruiter for the Department. Another university is actively recruiting him this year; his promotion is of course critical in keeping him at our institution. It is with the unanimous support of the Executive Committee that I recommend him for promotion to Associate Professor, School of Music, with tenure.



Christopher Kendall
Dean
School of Music

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