

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Music

Susan Botti, Assistant Professor of Music (Composition), School of Music, is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of Music (Composition), with tenure, School of Music.

Academic Degrees:

M.M. 1990 Manhattan School of Music, (Music Composition) NYC
B.M. 1984 Berklee College of Music, (Composition) Boston

Professional Record:

2000-present University of Michigan, Ann Arbor - Assistant Professor of Music
Composition

Residencies/Master Classes

2003	St. Mary's College – Windows on Music series
2002	“Contemporary Singing for Classical Singers” Queen of Puddings Music Theatre, Toronto
2002	Roosevelt University, Chicago
2001	University of Cincinnati
2001	Emory University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching:

Susan Botti is an insightful and effective teacher of composition. Her knowledge of contemporary style is extensive and she possesses a vivid aural imagination. Professor Botti is an immaculate musician, both as an accomplished vocal performer and among the emerging leaders of her generation of composers.

The testimony of Professor Botti's students regarding her teaching reveals a teacher who cares deeply the simultaneous cultivation of the student's individual voice along with the skills required to express that voice. She also makes certain that her students are challenged by musical styles that are not immediately accessible to them. She requires that they probe their own musical predilections beyond the superficial level of “liking” and “not liking.” Her skills as composer, performer and teacher are exemplary, and serve as an inspirational model to her students. Her patience and excellent communication skills have enabled her to maintain a fine relationship with her students.

Research:

Susan Botti is a highly talented and original composer, receiving considerable recognition for her accomplishments, and with the self-confidence and drive to make a substantial impact on the field. Along with her exciting successes as a composer, Susan Botti is also an accomplished vocal performer, appearing extensively as soloist with major ensembles

in her own works. These include The New York Philharmonic, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Radio Orchestra Saarbrücken, The NPS Radio Kamerorkest, Detroit Winds and Strings, Theatre Emory, Kerrytown Concert House and at Carnegie Hall, New York City. Her compositions are performed internationally, in New York City (Metropolitan Museum of Art, Kaye Playhouse, and St. Peter's Church), Ernen (Switzerland), Bury St. Edmond (England). Susan Botti has also produced a commercial recording of her work, *Cosmosis*, for Equilibrium, which was released late last year. Her compositions are radio broadcast throughout Europe and the U.S.

The awards, honors, and fellowships Professor Botti has received as a composer brings international recognition to Michigan. This year, she is simultaneously residing in Rome on awards from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Rome Prize. This dual recognition is truly extraordinary for a composer at any stage of their career. For a young composer, it signals an emergence as a major force in the composition field.

Service:

Susan Botti is a good citizen of the department, serving on the Scholarship Committee, Council of Departmental Representatives, as a Concerto Composition adjudicator, faculty advisor for the Composers' Forum, guest for Musicology 240, "Women & Music", and advisor to private students. Additionally, she has actively assisted the composition department with securing influential guest speakers.

Reviewer A

"Susan has been consistent in her creativity, tremendous talent as a composer and performing artists, willingness to learn and work and compassion towards others."

Reviewer B

"Her music seems to incorporate theatrical elements and some musical elements that may be drawn from non-"classical" and perhaps non-Western musics. These make her work less typical of some academic composition, and may make her more valuable and relevant to students in a department that seeks diversity of musical vision and resources." "In the case of Ms. Botti's works, the diverse sounds and textures and the novel ways in which material unfolds over time suggest non-traditional sources without pointing too obviously to particular musical cultures or sources."

"I suspect that her work may be controversial in an academic setting, and I would guess that it is probably both relatively accessible to serious audiences, but also challenging to them. I view these as positive qualities, especially in a department large enough to encourage diverse approaches."

Reviewer C

"Perhaps, most impressive was the world premiere of her ECHO TEMPO for Soprano, Percussion, and Large Orchestra, commissioned by the New York Philharmonic under Kurt Mazur."

“She comes prepared, does her job professionally and passionately, interacts artistically and sensitively with others, and is cooperative.”

Reviewer D

“Susan Botti has just completed a successful two-year association with The Cleveland Orchestra as the Orchestra’s Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellow. She was the third holder of this title, following the French composer Marc-Andre Dalbavie and the German Matthias Pintscher.”

“It was commented on more than one occasion that Susan Botti is a very engaging public speaker and knows well how to draw audiences into her sound-world and her compositional thought process. In question and answer sessions she was a good and very eloquent communicator with audience members and students.”

Reviewer E

“Susan has been consistent in her creativity, tremendous talent as a composer and performing artist, willingness to learn and work, and compassion towards others.”

“I was struck by Susan’s unique ability in her writing to communicate emotion with technical integrity and sophistication.”

Reviewer F

“When I first saw a score by Susan Botti I was very intrigued by the imagination and the compositorial skills of her work.”

“Susan Botti combines a wonderful poetic imagination with a mature handling of the challenges of a symphony orchestra.”

“I regard her as one of the leading composers of our country . . . ”

Reviewer G

“Susan Botti is a rare find in today’s musical world. As a composer/performer she brings together elements that result in a freshness and uniqueness that captivate audiences today and show monumental promise for the future. These qualities have repeatedly been recognized by others as she has garnered prestigious awards and prizes on numerous occasions.”

“ . . . I would have to agree with the reviewer that wrote, ‘Her music sounds like the person she is in real life: lovely, witty, subtle, playful.’ ”

Reviewer H

“As a composer, Botti has a strong, individual voice. This is a worthy achievement in a field with so many ‘sound alike’s’. Botti is a consummate professional, and has distinguished herself as performer and composer well beyond the United States.”


“She is a great asset to the School of Music and will attract many excellent students over the years.

Internal Review:

Susan Botti, in her short time at Michigan, has become an indispensable member of the Composition Department. She is a rising star, a fine teacher, a creative powerhouse. Her outstanding skill as an accomplished vocal performer adds an unusual dimension and insight to her teaching and her example to students and colleagues. Susan has proven to be supportive and helpful in departmental matters. She has enthusiastically participated and assisted in admissions, committee work, hosting guest composers, arranging composer master classes, organizing performances of student compositions, and attending concerts where student composer works are performed. Susan Botti has excelled at the highest level in all aspects of her job.

Summary of Recommendation

Professor Botti, a rising star in the compositional field, is a major asset to the Composition Department at the School of Music. In a Department generally recognized to be the best in the country, achieving star status is especially impressive. Her teaching and service records have complemented her outstanding creative output. With the unanimous support of the Executive Committee, I support the granting of tenure and promotion for Susan Botti to Associate Professor of Music (Composition) with tenure, School of Music.



Christopher Kendall
Dean
School of Music

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