

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Music

Walter T. Everett, Associate Professor of Music (Music Theory) with tenure, School of Music, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Music (Music Theory), with tenure, School of Music.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1988	The University of Michigan (Music Theory), Ann Arbor, MI
M.M.	1984	College-Conservatory of Music, The University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio (Music Theory)
B.S.	1976	Gettysburg College (Music Education)

Professional Record:

1997-	Associate Professor of Music with tenure, University of Michigan
1989-1997	Assistant Professor of Music, University of Michigan
1987	Instructor (Music Theory), Eastern Illinois University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching:

Dr. Walter Everett is an excellent teacher of music theory who has truly enhanced generations of students' skills with his musicianship, clear and illuminating style of classroom explanation, perceptive interchange with students, and dedication to pedagogy. Professor Everett is well liked and respected by his students. He has taught courses throughout the curriculum from the core through doctoral seminars and directed study.

Research:

Professor Everett is among the most highly regarded scholars in the United States on the subject of rock music, not only among theorists generally but also among rock-music specialists. His two-volume study of the music of the Beatles is the principal source on this important music. Moreover, his expertise is recognized internationally; he is sought nationally and internationally as a speaker on rock music topics.

Dr. Everett has a distinguished record of publication. He has written on a range of topics for audiences ranging from specialist to generalist. The repertory he has especially addressed, namely rock, is an established field of musicological and theoretical exploration in no small part thanks to his books on The Beatles. These are, simply stated, benchmarks in the analysis of pop music from a music-theoretical perspective. They also demonstrate a keen sensitivity to the historical process of composition. When first published, these books were considered less "trendy" than others appearing about the same time but long ago dropped from publisher's catalogues. Professor Everett's books, like his teaching, demonstrate the same profound musicality, intellect, and thoroughgoing analytic technique - something lacking in much work on the subject. Dr. Everett's work is recognized as absolutely seminal, and is internationally known and cited, particularly in England, where it is still admired, discussed, and sometimes imitated.

As important as Walt's work in rock music is, it would be incorrect to characterize his research as limited to that area. He has authored a number of important and well-regarded studies of art song as well, his most recent effort in that area being an article forthcoming in the *Journal of Music Theory*. This article contains analyses of numerous songs that have not been given this level of analytical attention. Challenging tonal structures exist in popular music, and Walt has published

original scholarly work in that area as well. His article in *Music Theory Spectrum* on Steely Dan is especially noteworthy. These publications are intended for an academic readership, but have reached a wide audience.

Professor Everett's strong research record has also yielded him significant success in grant fellowship awards, culminating in his NEH Fellowship in 2003-04. His combination of scholarly care and approachability have also made him something of a "public intellectual," with interviews on NPR, Finnish television and other media.

Service:

Dr. Everett has served as faculty secretary at the general faculty meetings. He has chaired the Department of Music Theory for the past year and proven to be a very even-handed administrator, among other things successfully leading the department through a revision of the undergraduate core courses that was occasioned by the retirement of Professor Dapogny. He served as a member of the Investigation Committee on Faculty Misconduct and on the GEO bargaining team for the University. Professor Everett administered the grading of the music theory placement exams for in-coming graduate or transfer students.

External Review:

Reviewer A

"Everett is a prolific scholar, having produced a significant body of work. It is clear from his writings that he has an excellent grasp of music literature and secondary sources."

Reviewer B

"In the years since his last promotion to Associate Professor in 1997, Walt Everett's reputation as a scholar has grown from the solid base he had established by then (eight or so articles and chapters in good journals and anthologies; frequent appearances on the programs of national and regional theory conferences) to, in my estimation, his present status as one of a handful of leading scholars of popular music – not just within music theory, but from any disciplinary standpoint."

Reviewer C

"He has emerged as one of the most articulate spokesmen for the pace of popular music in the academy and has established himself as one of the world authorities on the music of the Beatles."

Reviewer D

"He is an engaging teacher with a large knowledge base to build upon for all levels of instruction."

"Professor Everett has demonstrated leadership in research, through his development of edited collections of essays, the founding of the popular music interest group of the Society for Music Theory, as well as the popular dissemination of music-analytical ideas through radio, magazines and other popular media."

Reviewer E

"I consider Walt Everett to (be) among the best music theorists of his generation."

Reviewer F

"All of Professor Everett's published work is characterized by scholarly depth and breadth, reflecting a knowledge of contemporary music-theoretic and musicological approach to a broad range of music."

Reviewer G

“Given Professor Everett’s extraordinary research productivity since his promotion to Associate Professor in 1997, his extensive teaching credentials, and his invaluable service as chair of the theory department, as well as his work on many national committees, a positive evaluation for promotion to Professor would appear to be overwhelmingly obvious.”

Reviewer H

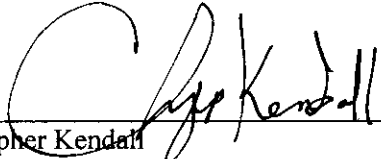
“His work on popular music maintains the highest standards of scholarship, and yet has reached a wide audience of readers to an extent almost unknown in the field of music scholarship, generating interest in him beyond the ivied walls academe.”

Internal Review:

As a colleague in the School of Music, Walter Everett is almost without peer. Not only has he demonstrated an extraordinary willingness to undertake all service duties put before him with characteristic good humor, he has performed them excellently. Students praise him enthusiastically, and his record of research an publication is excellent.

Summary of Recommendation

Professor Everett is an outstanding asset to the University of Michigan School of Music, owing to an extraordinary equilibrium of distinguished scholarship, outstanding teaching and exemplary service. It is with the unanimous support of the School of Music Executive Committee that I recommend Walter T. Everett for promotion to Professor of Music (Music Theory), with tenure.



Christopher Kendall
Dean, School of Music
May 2006