

May 17, 2007

**PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION**  
**The University of Michigan**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Strings**

Yehonatan M. Berick, associate professor of music, without tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

**Academic Degrees:**

B.M. 1993 College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati (summa cum laude)  
B.M. 1988 Tel Aviv University (coursework)

**Professional Record:**

2002-present Associate Professor of Music (Violin), University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance  
2001-2002 Visiting Professor of Violin, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York  
1993-2002 Associate Professor of Violin, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

**Summary of Evaluation:**

**Teaching:**

Since coming to the University, Professor Berick has documented a steady improvement in teaching evaluations that speak to his pedagogical commitment. He is skillful, demanding, and responsive. He is also patient, giving each student the opportunity to develop intellectually and musically. Professor Berick continues to hone his pedagogical knowledge and skills, and is proving his success through his students, to whom he routinely provides a wide array of academic advising and career mentoring. He has participated in three DMA student dissertations. He combines his talent with enthusiasm, sincerity, dedication, and wit.

**Professional and Creative Activity:**

Professor Berick maintains an impressive performance record, presenting 50–60 concerts annually in venues around the world. He has performed with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Alpenglow Chamber Music Festival, Agassiz Chamber Music Festival, and the Grand Junction Symphony. He has also performed chamber concerts and conducted master classes and/or private lessons at the Festival International du Domaine Forget (St. Irénée, Québec), Killington Music Festival (Vermont), and Société de musique de chambre de Québec. In addition to his international and national performance schedule, Professor Berick is a mainstay of the Michigan Chamber Players, and sustains an active schedule of recital performances at the University.

**Service:**

Professor Berick represents the String Department on the Council of Departmental Representatives (the undergraduate curricular committee). He has served on a search committee for a new hire in the Piano Department. He is the content manager for the String Department web page. His involvement with community activities includes performing at benefit concerts for victims of Hurricane Katrina, at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, at the Jewish Community Center Matinee Musicale Series, and in a chamber concert for University alumni at Camp Michiganiana. In November 2006, Professor Berick judged the Michigan Solo Competition, part of the 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Solo Competition. He has also volunteered to lead sectional rehearsals of the Michigan Youth Orchestra.

**External Reviewers:**

**Reviewer A**

“Professor Berick is an outstanding violinist and a musician of great personality. He is an inspired leader and an active listener, capable of articulating his ideas with a remarkable ease while being open to his partners’ points of view and musical desires. He has a wide network of esteemed colleagues who appreciate him and seek his collaboration. His approach to teaching is serious, organized, knowledgeable and imaginative.”

**Reviewer B**

“My own experience performing with Yehonatan during numerous festivals and chamber music recitals proves that he is an accomplished musician with beautiful sound, sense of style, flawless technique and, importantly, wonderful work ethics. According to evaluations, Mr. Berick is well respected and loved by his students – the fact that is very important for your final decision. I believe he is able to draw many gifted violinists to your School.”

**Reviewer C**

“He is technically extraordinary, possesses great beauty of tone and nuance, and exudes a seemingly natural musicality that touches the heart and persuades the mind. I do believe he was much loved and admired by his students at the Bowdoin Festival and given his generous and outgoing nature, that would seem to be a foregone conclusion.”

**Reviewer D**

“Yehonatan’s file is quite impressive. He has demonstrated a great deal of professional activity as a performer while maintaining a growing studio of violin students. . . .the University of Michigan is fortunate to have such a dedicated, active, and energetic teacher and performer as a member of the faculty.”

**Reviewer E**

“Professor Berick’s activities both externally and internally are impressive and far-reaching. These activities are considered to be at a high level within the profession, and establish Professor Berick’s profile as a strong contributor within the national community of violinists. Within the School of Music Professor Berick has clearly been active in building the program. His teaching philosophy is laudable, and it is clear from the student response that he has been effective.”

**Reviewer F**

“I was very interested in reading Yehonatan’s Teaching Statement and could see the layers of understanding and insight behind the words. For him to be as personally facile as he is and be able to articulate specific matters of physical control and manipulation are very admirable. There is no question as to the excellence of his playing, and his overall artistic potential.”

**Reviewer G**

“Mr. Berick is one of these rare musicians that are able to maintain great teaching with highest performance qualities and his own outstanding playing. . . .I have had the pleasure of observing his teachings in a master class situation as well as in coaching chamber music; in both, I find him to be an inspired and inspiring teacher.”

**Reviewer H**

“First and foremost, Yehonatan is a wonderful violinist and a superb, compelling artist. Professor Berick’s statement of teaching philosophy seems refreshing in its straightforward practicality, emphasis on basics and routine and intelligently organized approach to repertoire. Clearly, Professor Berick has earned the respect, admiration and loyalty of his students.”

**Reviewer I**

“He is a wonderful violinist, a teacher that can demonstrate with aplomb, a person who enjoys a great sense of humor and truly cares for his students. . . .he has a very good philosophy of teaching, and he has the respect of most of his students.”

**Reviewer J**

“I was impressed with the thorough and well founded methodology laid out in the Teaching Statement. Mr. Berick seems to have a clear course charted for the various developmental stages of his students and I find his choice of repertoire effective for the problems he tries to address. He seems to have a good sense of balance between the need to address the building of a solid technical foundation and the fostering musical growth.”

**Reviewer K**

“It is clear from his students’ comments that they hold him in high regard and are grateful for his guidance. I am certain that his exemplary ability is a superb model for his students. Mr. Berick’s reputation as a strong teacher is well-deserved and will continue to grow to the benefit of the University of Michigan’s School of Music.”

**Reviewer L**

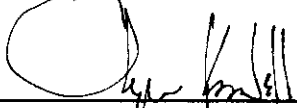
“My general impression of Yehonatan Berick is that he has the makings of a top teacher, as well as a top performer. I see great potential for his further growth and am certain that his presence will enrich any of the highest level institutions in American Academia.”

**Internal Review:**

The majority of internal reviewers have articulated common themes. His playing is masterful and inspiring; his musical gifts are extraordinary. He works well with his students, who find him demanding yet patient and committed. He is a well-liked, enthusiastic, and dependable colleague who maintains a sense of humor. He is well on his way to becoming an outstanding violin pedagogue.

**Summary of Recommendation:**

Professor Yehonatan M. Berick is an extraordinary violinist. The steady ascent in his teaching trajectory reflects that he has met the challenge of adjusting to a different teaching culture. His continuing efforts at becoming more visible in the United States will enable him to attract talented students to our School and to retain them. We are confident that Professor Berick is developing a strong violin studio. With the unanimous support of the Executive Committee, I recommend granting tenure to Yehonatan M. Berick, associate professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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Christopher W. Kendall  
Dean, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

May 2007