

May 17, 2007

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

Ramon Satyendra, assistant professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1992	Music Theory and History, University of Chicago
M.M.	1985	Music Theory, Northwestern University
B.A.	1983	Music, University of Chicago

Professional Record:

2001-present	Assistant Professor of Music, Department of Music Theory, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
1991-2001	Associate Professor, Department of Music Theory, Yale University
1990-1991	Visiting Instructor, University of Chicago
1986-1988	Lecturer, University of Chicago
1983-1984	Aural Skills Instructor, Northwestern University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching:

Professor Satyendra is a gifted and effective teacher. He possesses an innate ability to communicate some of the most complicated material in music scholarship to our students in a way that is engaging and enjoyable. He teaches a wide range of undergraduate and graduate classes, and does so with great success. While at Yale University, he received the Clauss Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities, one of that institution's most prestigious teaching awards. Professor Satyendra continues to receive some of the highest student rankings in his department. He is a highly sought-after, rigorous and compassionate teacher, whose passion for his subject and for teaching it is truly reflected in the sincere expressions of support from his students.

Professional and Scholarly Activity:

Professor Satyendra's work involves the field of transformational theory, using a series of mathematical transformations in ways that aim to account for both tonal and post-tonal procedures. An interesting component of his work is developing multiple perspectives, either discovering them in the musical material or defining them in a theoretical system. As one might expect, work of this nature does not beget a high number of publications, in contrast to other realms of music scholarship, because of its complexity and highly specialized nature. His publication record has been increasing since his arrival at the University, and there is universal recognition of the strength of his publication record. His writings are elegant, clear, and consistent; the quality has been exceptional. Professor Satyendra has already achieved national and international recognition as evidenced by his numerous invited lectures at major universities and presented papers at major conferences in the U.S. and abroad, including two fellowships at the Mannes Institute.

Service:

Professor Satyendra's service trajectory in the department and the School has risen over the past several years. He has participated on the Graduate Admissions Committee, Ph.D. and DMA committees, the Council of Departmental Representatives, and a task force to review the restructuring of the core curriculum, and Faculty Secretary. His service on a recent departmental search committee was exemplary. In the past few years, he has provided mentoring to an increasing number of undergraduate

theory majors. As part of his service to the community, Professor Satyendra performs piano recitals at the Sunrise Senior Living facility in Ann Arbor. On a national level, Professor Satyendra is an editorial board member for the *Music Theory Spectrum*, and the *Journal of Music and Mathematics*. He also has been a manuscript reviewer for the Oxford University Press, *Journal of Music Theory*, and the Yale University Press.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A

“...Ramon Satyendra is an effective teacher to undergraduates and graduates alike, a busy advisor of graduate students, and a scholar of breadth, creativity, and musicality who successfully manages to unite elements of his teaching and his research. He thinks well, edits well, and writes well – and I am certain that his trajectory will continue to rise, and that he will publish quality work on a multitude of topics in the future.”

Reviewer B

“There are certainly music theorists who have published more in terms of sheer quantity, but few can match the quality of Ramon’s work, or his range of interests and abilities as a theorist, teacher, and performer. Ramon has to be numbered among the very best theorists in the field. In some ways it is difficult to compare him to others because of his range.”

Reviewer C

“His productivity, the prominence of the venues in which he has published, the clarity of his writing, and the wide applicability of his conclusions are the equal or superior of every successful tenure case in music theory I have seen in recent years. In the discipline of music theory as a whole, I would rank him high among his cohort, prominent for his wide range of research, for his penetrating analyses, and for his service as editor and in many other arenas. He shows every promise of becoming still more prominent in the future.”

Reviewer D

“With all this labor-intensive service, one might expect some constriction in Satyendra’s ability to churn out high quality published research. But in fact, the most remarkable aspect of Satyendra’s professional portfolio is the range, depth, and consistency of his publications. For there are few people at any level who are in Ramon Satyendra’s league when it comes to the sheer hands-on smarts displayed in his written work and his teaching.”

Reviewer E

“In the profession of music theory, Satyendra is held in unanimously high regard. His papers at conferences are always considered high points, and we all benefit from the brilliance of his insights. ... I have no doubt that a book will be forthcoming in the near future from this brilliant scholar.”

Reviewer F

“Each work is an important and distinct contribution, profound and rich in implications, incisively conceptualized, and clearly presented. Satyendra’s publications establish him as a deep musical thinker and important music theorist with an amazing bandwidth.”

Reviewer G

“In sum, you have in Ramon Satyendra a brilliant musician and musical intellect – one whose musicianship is irreproachable, whose teaching of music theory is as good as that of anyone in the country (or the world), and whose publications are top-drawer and promise to become quite influential.”

Reviewer H

“Ramon is, first of all, an all-around musician and scholar who exemplifies excellence in teaching, research, and creative work in several different fields. I cannot think of a stronger, junior scholar able to do so many things at such a high level in the discipline. I’d hire him in a moment, if I were able, to a position with tenure.”

Reviewer I

“Dr. Satyendra has a distinguished background, both in terms of his education and his employment history. I find Dr. Satyendra’s work, as evidenced by his research, teaching, and service, to be at or above the expectations for a candidate for promotion to associate professor with tenure at similarly ranked institutions such as my own.”

Reviewer J

“What I have tried to summarize above doesn’t begin to capture Professor Satyendra’s achievements as an imaginative, widely-read, and really brilliant writer about many kinds of music. These accomplishments are all the more impressive in light of the fact that Ramon manages as well to find time for performances as a superb pianist, organist, and tabla player.”

Reviewer K

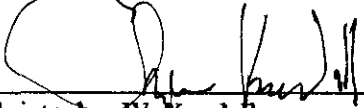
“Satyendra is an accomplished musical scholar whose publications and presentations, although not numerous, have won him a substantial national reputation. The breadth and quality of his scholarship mark him as one of the leading figures in his generation of music theorists.”

Internal Review:

A brilliant scholar, superb teacher, and genuine colleague, Professor Ramon Satyendra has become a trusted and valued member of the Department and the School. He is a confident, enthusiastic, and unassuming scholar whose research has been recognized at both a national and international level. In addition, his superb teaching and service record make him an exemplary team player in his department.

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Satyendra is a brilliant scholar in the relatively narrow and complex field of transformational music theory. He is a treasured member of the School, and it is widely anticipated that his scholarly work will continue to be viewed as significant and prominent in the field of music theory. It is with the strong support of the Executive Committee that I recommend him for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

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