

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

Approved by the Regents

May 17, 2007

Rico F. Serbo, 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:**

1976	University of Arizona (Graduate work towards Masters in Voice)
B.A. 1963	University of the Pacific

**Professional Record:**

2004-present	Associate Professor of Music, Department of Voice, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
1999-2004	Assistant Professor of Music, Lawrence University, Conservatory of Music, Appleton, WI
1996-1999	Adjunct Professor, Wagner College, Staten Island, NY
1996-2004	Artist-in-Residence, Bay View Music Festival, MI
1977-1979	Visiting Artist, Chair of Voice, Director of Opera Workshop, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
1970-1996	Private Voice Studio

**Summary of Evaluation:**

**Teaching:**

Professor Serbo is an outstanding teacher and recruiter of some of the best voice students at the School. He received high rankings on his students' evaluations. His students are clearly dedicated to him and value his rich and expansive experience, which he selflessly shares with them. Colleagues and students alike describe him as being dedicated, generous, and energetic. He has a profound understanding of vocal technique coupled with the ability to articulate it to his students. His work is focused, mature, and professional, and the majority of his students have made excellent progress.

**Professional and Scholarly Activity:**

Professor Serbo has a rich and distinguished national and international singing career. He has performed with major orchestras and in some of the most prestigious opera houses in the world. The warmth and beauty of his lyric tenor captivate audiences around the world. Although not as professionally active as he once was, Professor Serbo brings a sense of maturity, knowledge, and experience to his professional and teaching activities. His artistry is intact and he remains a committed performer in every sense.

**Service:**

Professor Serbo represents the Voice Department on the Council of Departmental Representatives (the undergraduate curricular committee). He has served as a member of the Voice Department Opera Planning Program Committee, and on several faculty search committees. Professor Serbo has helped judge the School's Concerto Competition, and he has performed in a number of concerts with faculty colleagues. He is an advisor and counselor to a plethora of students, and participates in the School's summer teaching programs. On a national level, he is a member of the College Music Society, the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and the Pi Kappa Lambda Music Society (honorary).

**External Reviewers:**

**Reviewer A**

“It is fairly common for singers who have had a substantial professional performing career to turn to teaching. Not all of them do so successfully. Based on what I can glean from his file, Professor Serbo has made a successful transition.”

**Reviewer B**

“Rico has been recognized for many years – nationally and internationally, as a first rate artist. His long career is evidence of dependable service in major arenas, and popularity with audiences and colleagues. His standing in the profession is high – earned by his dedication to and love of singing.”

**Reviewer C**

“As an (American) Italian lyric tenor, Rico is simply excellent. His voice is powerful, ringing, expressive and has been demonstrably durable over a long singing career. In the appropriate repertoire, Rico is a very empathic, generous performer, and outstanding model for developing singers . . .”

**Reviewer D**

“His singing and performing reveals a clear, rigorous, uninhibited artist with the depth of understanding and confidence that is essential in top level singing careers such as he experienced. This is, no doubt, very useful as he works with current and future students.”

**Reviewer E**

“His accomplishments rank him among several singers of his generation who have had important careers and who are now successfully training younger singers. He brings a wealth of knowledge to his voice studio. Through master classes, teaching voice, and coaching opera singers, Mr. Serbo should be able to make valuable contributions to your school for many years to come.”

**Reviewer F**

“I have been aware of his success as a voice teacher by way of personal reports from students who have studied with him over the past years. Rico brings to his profession the experience of an outstanding career, a talent for teaching, and a personality that is generous and caring.”

**Reviewer G**

“Mr. Serbo has always enjoyed a professional reputation as an accomplished singer and actor who possesses a tenor voice of singular distinction. In addition, he is known as a gentleman of personal and professional integrity, dependability and dedication to the singing arts. Clearly, he has brought the wealth of knowledge and experience that he gained as a singing artist to his teaching career.”

**Reviewer H**

“Rico Serbo is a very seasoned and fine pedagogue. I found evidence of his fine teaching through the success of his students’ performances during each summer. The nature and success of his performance and teaching careers place him in at least the upper 15 to 20 percentile of colleagues in similar positions around the nation.”

**Reviewer I**

“His professional resume reflects a long and busy career in the world of opera. The number of roles he has performed shows the kind of depth in professional experience that we look for . . .”

**Reviewer J**

“Already Professor Serbo is successfully recruiting students to the University. With time and rising reputation, this will likely increase. He strikes me as one who would be a fine colleague who is enthusiastic about serving the institution with ongoing vigor and commitment.”

**Reviewer K**

“By any standards he has had an outstanding singing career and has sung with evident success a vast repertoire. Based on all the materials I have heard and read, I am most confident in recommending him for promotion to the rank of associate professor, with tenure.”

**Reviewer L**

“I am confident that he is making a positive difference in the lives of his students while continuing to contribute to the artistic life of the community through his own performances. You are fortunate to have added an artist/teacher of his caliber to your stellar faculty.”

**Reviewer M**

“He always explores the text of a piece, musical implications and dramatic intentions. I believe these characteristics of his work gives his students invaluable tools in their quests for artistic integrity.”

**Reviewer N**

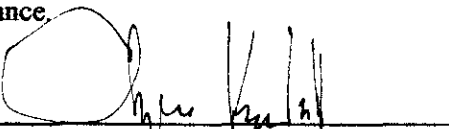
“I believe that Professor Serbo has indeed shown excellence in creative work in the prime of his singing life. This experience will be a wonderful example to your students seeking a professional operatic career.”

**Internal Review:**

Professor Serbo brings a wealth of experience, generosity, and collegiality to his position in the School. He brings a sense of maturity, professionalism, and confidence in his creative activities. There is overwhelming consensus that he is a valuable and admired colleague who is flexible and approachable in all aspects of his work.

**Summary of Recommendation:**

Professor Rico F. Serbo is a prestigious performer and an admired teacher. He is a trusted and respected colleague who will continue to attract talented students to the University. There is overwhelming consensus that the combination of his vast experience and exemplary collegiality will enable Professor Serbo to continue to make significant contributions to the School and the University. It is with the support of the Executive Committee that I recommend the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

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

May 2007