

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Department of Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation

Robert L. Hurst, 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.F.A. (candidate) 1986 Indiana University (Jazz and Performance Studies)

Professional Record:

2005 - present Associate Professor of Music (Jazz and Improvisation Studies),
University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
2000 – 2005 Faculty Member, Instructor for the Music School,
California State University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Hurst is a very inspiring and creative educator. His teaching methods are clear, concise and organized. His artistry and vast professional experience allow him to offer a variety of approaches and tools for his students. Students comment on his wealth of knowledge and experience. The student feedback, consistently positive, speaks to Hurst's commitment and unwavering attention to each student. He seems to have combined the best elements of classical and jazz pedagogy.

Professor Hurst has continued his relationship with The Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, a nonprofit education organization that offers promising young musicians college-level training by America's jazz masters and presents public school-based jazz education programs for young people around the world. Additionally, he has extended his teaching activities by providing master classes at some of nation's leading musical institutions.

Professional and Creative Activity: Professor Hurst is a world-class bassist who has contributed to the world of jazz music for over 25 years. He has performed, and continues to perform, with some of the best-known musicians in the world, including Garth Brooks, Dave Brubeck, Betty Carter, George Clinton, Natalie Cole, Harry Connick, Jr., Vince Gill, Al Green, Herbie Hancock, Elton John, Hank Jones, Quincy Jones, Wynona Judd, Diana Krall, Johnny Mathis, Liza Minelli, Willie Nelson, Sting, Barry White, Hank Williams, Jr., and Stevie Wonder. He has appeared with the Boston Pops, Chicago Symphony, Honolulu Symphony, and the New Orleans Symphony.

He has to his credit over 200 recordings as an ensemble player and soloist, including recordings of his own compositions. He composed and arranged music over an eight-year period for The Tonight Show, and numerous other major network television shows. He has created compositions for independent and major motion pictures, and he has performed on a number of motion picture soundtracks. All told, Professor Hurst has received six Grammy Awards, three

Grammy Nominations, three gold and two platinum albums, three Juno Awards (Canada), and four Emmy Awards.

Service: Professor Hurst's service to the University and the School has been primarily through musical performance and student recruitment. Due to the commuting nature of his appointment, his service component has not followed the traditional path. Professor Hurst's commitment to service activities in the School and the University is expected to increase after his complete transition to the area.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A

"Bob is well-read, highly articulate, soft spoken, and an original thinker. He is deeply devoted to music and has a real passion for teaching. He brings a wonderful combination of academic, professional, and street experience to the classroom. Above all, he is a warm and compassionate human being."

Reviewer B

"In my estimation Robert Hurst is one of the greatest bassists and jazz musicians of our era. His performance and recording credits place him among the upper 1 percentile of the art. He is also a well-established composer. I have had the good fortune to witness his teaching, and he is undoubtedly a master teacher."

Reviewer C

"Not only is Mr. Hurst's time/rhythm excellent, his intonation is wonderful, his bass line construction is inventive and interesting, his solos are superb and his expression is coherent and infectious. Robert Hurst has a vast knowledge of jazz repertoire and a knack for communicating well with his colleagues."

Reviewer D

"As an educator, Professor Hurst is a model of perfection, prepared for the tasks before him. His studies with some of the best educators of our times have made him a valued commodity to any academic environment. His vast knowledge and experience in the music industry allows him to effectively and thoroughly address any subject matter and follow it up with a demonstration on his instrument whenever necessary."

Reviewer E

"Since Robert Hurst has been a faculty member at your university, his bass studio has thrived. He exhibits exceptional teaching credentials that are necessary to help ensure success for his students. Through his professional recordings as a bassist on films & video, compositions, articles, service to the community and extensive touring schedule with the best in the business, Professor Hurst has established himself a much respected international reputation."

Reviewer F

"Mr. Hurst was chosen to be a member of the ensemble for his excellence as an instrumentalist and composer. The members of this eight-person ensemble comprise the highest level of achievement in jazz. This Collective has performed in the world's great concert venues and has

garnered extensive critical acclaim.”

Reviewer G

“I have enjoyed watching Robert’s professional career develop over the past 25 years. I have also been pleased to see how Robert’s focus has turned to education and making a difference in his student’s lives. In reading the comments of his students, I was impressed with the impact of his teaching and the respect in which he is held – one of the most important measures of success for any educator.”

Reviewer H

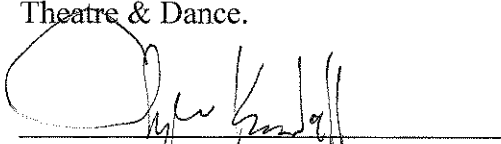
“Mr. Hurst has had an illustrious career. Not only is he a first-rate instrumentalist, he is one of the most outstanding extensions of the jazz bass tradition, displaying a virtuosity and inventiveness that sets him apart from his contemporaries. Robert has proved to be an influential player. He is a person and professional of unquestionable character.”

Reviewer I

“I am aware of Professor Hurst’s commitment to education, passing on the traditions, inspiring young musicians, helping them to develop and carry on this important American art form – jazz. He has a lot of experience teaching and he teaches from personal, practical experience with the greatest musicians in the world.”

Internal Review: Professor Hurst is an invaluable asset to the Department of Jazz and Improvisation and to the University. He is held in high esteem by his colleagues for his winning combination of artistry, diplomacy, personality, and teaching skills. He is a stellar colleague whose presence here has already proven its value, and whose potential for increased influence as an artist and pedagogue is seemingly limitless.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Robert Hurst is an extraordinary national and international musician. His contributions to the field, his colleagues, and to his students’ musical growth have been significant and impressive. It is with the strong support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Robert L. Hurst for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

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