

Approved by the Regents
May 15, 2008

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Music, Theatre & Dance
School of Art and Design

Andrew J. Kirshner, assistant professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and assistant professor of art and design, School of Art and Design, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and associate professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design.

Academic Degrees:

D.M.A.	1999	University of Michigan (Music Composition)
M.M.	1995	University of Michigan (Music Composition)
B.M.	1983	New England Conservatory of Music (Saxophone Performance), with honors
B.A.	1983	Tufts University (Philosophy), Magna Cum Laude

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Performing Arts Technology, University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and Assistant Professor, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan
2001	Lecturer, Residential College, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan
2001 – 2001	Adjunct Lecturer, Departments of Music Theory and Jazz Studies, School of Music, University of Michigan
1999 – 2000	Visiting Lecturer, Department of Performing Arts Technology, School of Music, University of Michigan
1988 – 1993	Instructor of Adult Basic Education, City University of New York
1986 – 1990	Curriculum Consultant, Brooklyn Public Library Literacy Program, New York

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Kirshner's teaching evaluations are consistently positive. Frequent feedback indicates that he does exceptionally well as a consequence of his breadth of expertise, ability to establish an open, productive studio atmosphere and present material in an understandable manner, and his willingness to provide assistance in and out of the classroom. Both undergraduates and graduates note that Professor Kirshner is able to accomplish one of the most difficult challenges in studio teaching with apparent ease: to give students ample freedom to explore media and concepts on their own while demanding outstanding performance and meeting high expectations.

Professional and Creative Activity: Professor Kirshner is a remarkable visual artist and musician with an extensive range of expertise that allow him to develop complex performance works. His work has been suitably described as combining tremendous music-compositional and visual arts techniques, the honed skills of a seasoned playwright, a profound sense of humor, and a mind that always seeks and finds connections between big ideas and the overarching aspects of human existence. This unique and balanced combination of talents makes him the ideal faculty member to successfully collaborate within and across campus divisions.

Service: Professor Kirshner performs an impressive service activities in both schools. He has participated on numerous committees, focusing on issues that range from departmental concerns to inter-unit curriculum develop, to the interdisciplinary environment of the entire University. His sense of team building and his fairness are natural talents.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A

“As the art world becomes increasingly interdisciplinary you are fortunate indeed to have an artist like Andy Kirshner to teach the next generation of artists. As technology becomes a dominant tool, it is increasingly important that young artists have the opportunity to work with faculty who understand how to translate important principles of composition into this new medium.”

Reviewer B

“Professor Kirshner is an outstanding interdisciplinary artist and an intellectual in the artist/scholar model. His dossier conveys a depth of knowledge in several fields – the Humanities as well as the arts – and an ability to be articulate and clear about his intentions and concerns.”

Reviewer C

“To summarize, I believe Mr. Kirshner’s value to students is primarily as a resource and inspiration toward mastery and coordination of many skills and techniques involved in multi-media work. I would imagine that his versatility is valuable to students and the university. He has a level of musical skill that is exceptional among filmmakers to my knowledge, and I don’t know any musician who is as skilled as he is in video and film.”

Reviewer D

“Professor Kirshner’s dossier is also impressive in its sheer abundance. This is not the work of an ivory-tower academic, but someone who lives in the tortured real world of today. As such, he is a welcome and valuable member of any creative and educational system, both on campus and in the wider community outside.”

Reviewer E

“He appears to be a skillful teacher. I note from his CV that he has been involved in the development of many interdisciplinary classes, serving on various advisory committees and involved in new curricula development, etc. He’s working in a new area, developing new educational techniques, and the student work included with his portfolio is terrific.”

Reviewer F

“His very active engagement in production and experimentation on many platform levels can only result as a gain to his students. It seems Professor Kirshner is able to teach a full range of courses, and while it is useful to be capable of applying oneself in a number of areas, I believe his ability to bridge the media of several of your School’s units and sectors in an interdisciplinary way is an even more valuable asset.”

Reviewer G

“For these reasons among others, I think Andy’s work is not only superb, it is important. He is a unique, and critical voice in the field of performance. While the work effortlessly carries the mantle of excellence, it also manages to be truly interdisciplinary in nature, and erases boundaries long in need of erasure. Not only is each individual work a coherent and carefully orchestrated experience, each also moves the very art form forward. This is an accomplishment few artists can claim.”

Reviewer H

“... I have found his strengths to be the breadth of his artistic vision, his ability to fluidly combine elements of visual art, music, and computer technology, and his commitment and patience to bring his projects to fruition. I imagine that this desire to bring together many disciplines and take them into new, somewhat uncharted territory would make Andy a very welcome and inspirational presence at the School.”

Reviewer I

“Professor Kirshner strikes me as a colleague who is generous to both his peers and his students. His wide grasp of new technologies and applications combined with his sense of the historical precedents in an area that is continuing to redefine itself make him an exceptional candidate for tenure.”

Reviewer J

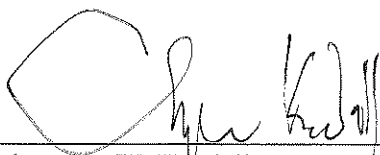
“The world of technology theatre or work that tries to integrate the progress we have made in the digital age with something as old fashioned as performance is a tricky one. So many artists become enamored of the technology and forget the theater part. Andrew’s work obviously moves through that mine field with great success.”

Reviewer K

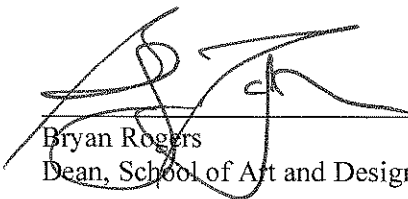
“Professor Kirshner possesses a remarkable range of artistic talents and interests, encompassing music composition and vocal performance, video animation, compositing and editing, choreography and dance, dramaturgy, stage acting, set design and theatrical direction.”

Internal Review: Internal reviews in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance revealed that Professor Kirshner is a thoughtful, sincere, and committed colleague. He is described universally as a warm and collegial presence who is truly interested in the work of his colleagues. He is an artist of great range and depth who truly bridges disciplines; he does so with great versatility, humor and wisdom.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Andrew Kirshner is an ideal candidate to fulfill the multidisciplinary role in two schools. He is an established artist who is also a gifted educator and collaborative colleague. It is with great enthusiasm and support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee and the School of Art and Design Executive Committee that we recommend Andrew J. Kirshner for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and associate professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design.



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



Bryan Rogers
Dean, School of Art and Design

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