

**PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION**  
**The University of Michigan**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Performing Arts Technology**

Virgil E. Moorefield, associate professor of music, without tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his current title of associate professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

**Academic Degrees:**

Ph.D.	2001	(Music Composition), Princeton University
M.F.A.	1998	(Music Composition), Princeton University
M.A.	1979	(English and Comparative Literature), Columbia University
B.A.	1978	(cum laude, English and Comparative Literature), Columbia University

**Professional Record:**

2005 – present	Associate Professor of Music (Performing Arts Technology), University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
2000 – 2005	Assistant Professor (Music Technology), Department of Music Studies, Northwestern University School of Music
2000 – 2001	Senior Lecturer, Department of Music, Princeton University

**Summary of Evaluation**

**Teaching:** Professor Moorefield's foundations in both English literature and music add depth and dimension to his unique profile. The combination of his humanistic educational background with his experience not only as a professional musician but also as a skilled engineer and computer programmer, enhances his ability to educate students about technological innovation and its impact on both the artistic process and product. Professor Moorefield's teaching philosophy blends well with the departmental value of integration of performance, scholarship and creativity. Students respond well to his teaching style, as evinced by the student ratings, which have continued to rise since his arrival at Michigan.

**Professional and Creative Activity:** Professor Moorefield is accomplished as a composer, author and musician. His compositional output is original, well-crafted and effective. His *Chicago Union Station* is a large-scale intermedia effort, with equally powerful elements in the sonic and visual realms; this work was selected for performance at the 2004 International Computer Music Conference. Professor Moorefield's increasing stature as an intermedia artist is affirmed by an invitation from the International Computer Music Association to adjudicate in this genre. His highly eclectic CD releases have received resoundingly positive reviews, and his works have been published and distributed by highly regarded publishers of contemporary music. Professor Moorefield's recent book, *The Producer*, issued by MIT Press (one of the leading arts and technology publishers in the U.S.), has received highly favorable notices. This work offers a unique perspective into the creative as well as practical impact of music producers in the age of sound recording. This work is already enjoying great success as a valuable primary resource.

**Service:** Professor Moorefield's service activities are steadily increasing in the School. He was a valuable member of the Committee on the Redesign of Electronic Music Studios for the Duderstadt Center. He is also a member of a focus group on Graduate Education Development in Media Arts. In addition to his University service, Professor Moorefield is an external reviewer for *Leonardo Electronic Almanac* (MIT Press), he judged the International Computer Music Conference (2006) at Tulane University, and he consulted for Mount San Antonia College for the building of a recording studio and lab facilities.

**External Reviewers:**

**Reviewer A**

"But most essential, in Virgil Moorefield I recognize an artist and educator of complete commitment. This is a lifelong thing, a quality that I find in my best colleagues and something I look for in new faculty hires. ... I will expect to see and hear new intermedia artworks of arresting beauty and wonderful oddity, and to meet Michigan alumni who, fueled by their experience with Dr. Moorefield, will make an impact on culture and industry around the world."

**Reviewer B**

"Finally, as an outside observer who has experienced many of his performances, I have to say that I have enormous respect for Dr. Virgil Moorefield as a composer, performer, and researcher. The unique quality of his creative and research contributions sets him apart from his colleagues. His devotion to contemporary music performance is rare..."

**Reviewer C**

"In the mold of a multimedia composer, Moorefield is one of a generation of practitioners who work well in academia making new directions, taking risks and developing ideas."

**Reviewer D**

"He seems exactly the kind of faculty member you should have – engaged, prolific, talented, well-known and respected, apparently a terrific teacher, and a thoughtful and extraordinarily creative person."

**Reviewer E**

"Professor Moorefield's teaching statements and excellent student evaluations reflect a caring, skilled and successful teacher's work. His project-based approach is one I also advocate and find very effective. His work with the Lucid Dreaming Ensemble audiovisual performance ensemble shows his ability to combine teaching with creative work. I find Professor Moorefield's creative contributions to be extremely valuable, and look forward to including some of his ideas in my courses."

**Reviewer F**

"He is a strong and assured composer who clearly has a tremendous array of resources at his fingertips. These include his performance skills, his programming skills, his intellectual reflexivity, his refined ears, and a tremendous imagination."

**Reviewer G**

“To me, a good measure of an artist’s success is whether or not they have found, perhaps created, an audience or platform for their work. In this regard, the field of digital media requires extraordinary skills. In the case of Professor Moorefield, he has proven himself to be an important figure in contemporary music. In each of his undertakings, he has succeeded in locating a successful path. The breadth of his work is exceptional and the quality is excellent.”

**Reviewer H**

“Moorefield’s way of using [his textbook] seems to be to help students see the possibilities that various ways of combining traditional music technique with studio technique can bear new kinds of fruit. His work boasts an extraordinarily wide range of writing, composition, recording, production, and image processing, and shows a restless creative spirit capable of many more surprises in the future.”

**Reviewer I**

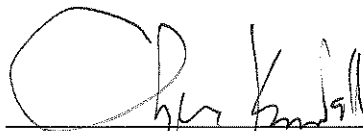
“In a world increasingly devoted to media that do not center on written words and notation, it is critical to develop ways of speaking about, analyzing, and criticizing the development and experience of these new media, particularly from our perspective as music scholars. I find Dr. Moorefield to be one of the leaders in that effort and believe that he has staked out an important and highly regarded position in doing so. I find the work of Virgil Moorefield to be exemplary and a credit to the University of Michigan.”

**Reviewer J**

“This review has been something of a journey of discovery, which has proven illuminating and enjoyable. Moorefield is among those contemporary composers – still a distinct academic minority – who understand and can navigate the complex and varied terrain of today’s musical landscape, moving among media and styles with assurance and an original flair.”

**Internal Review:** Professor Moorefield is a great resource for current trends in the music industry. His depth and expertise and success in music production and recording are rarities in academia; these talents are highly beneficial for his colleagues. His enthusiasm, passion and commitment to teaching and performing are treasured qualities.

**Summary of Recommendation:** Virgil Moorefield is an accomplished composer, performer, and researcher. The uniqueness of his creative and research contribution is greatly appreciated in the School, and his students benefit immensely through these experiences. It is with the strong support of the School’s Executive Committee that I recommended the granting of tenure to be held with his current 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 2008