

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

Approved by the Regents
May 15, 2008

Paul A. Rardin, 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:

D.M.A. (Conducting)	1993	University of Michigan
M.M. (Conducting)	1990	University of Michigan
M.M. (Composition)	1990	University of Michigan
B.A. (Music)	1987	Williams College

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Associate Professor, University of Michigan
2002 – 2005	Conductor, Towson University
1993 – 2005	Professor and Director of Choirs, Towson University

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching: Professor Rardin's teaching has been described as masterful. His students consistently praise him for his energy, enthusiasm, passion, organization, care and insight. These traits are infused in his teaching approach and students flourish under his tutelage. Professor Rardin is very approachable and caring; he makes himself available to meet with his students whenever needed. He has received overwhelmingly positive student reviews, with many comments addressing his formidable level of knowledge and artistry. His course ratings are consistently strong.

Professional and Creative Activity: Professor Rardin is highly sought-after as a guest conductor in the midwestern and eastern states. He has conducted nine all-state choirs and a wide variety of other honors choirs around the country. His association with the Michigan choirs, and his service to the American Choral Directors Association, are giving him a national profile commensurate with his abilities. In addition to his growing work as a conductor, one of his greatest strengths is the versatility of his creative endeavors in composition and professional publication. In the past seven years he has published fourteen articles and contributions to teacher resource guides.

Service: Prior to his arrival to the University of Michigan, Professor Rardin amassed an impressive service record at Towson University. Since his arrival at Michigan, Professor Rardin has garnered an equally impressive service record in three short years. He is intensely involved with the Men's Glee Club, the annual Collage Concert (which he directed this year), and the Faculty Council on Graduate Studies (in his capacity as doctoral advisor for the Conducting Department). He has also served on a faculty search committee. External to the University, Professor Rardin has held numerous offices in the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). His contributions to this organization have been impressive and constant. He has done a considerable amount of adjudication, including the final round of the ACDA Graduate Conducting Competition.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A

“Mr. Rardin seems to have the skills and personality that make for greatness. Despite my disappointment in losing him from the East coast university/choral world, it made perfect sense that he went to one of the very best university choral programs. My sense was – and is – that the challenges of working in such a program will deepen and hone his considerable talents, and perhaps help him realize his potentials a bit sooner.”

Reviewer B

“My impression from everything I hear and read is that you have a fine musician on your faculty, one whose energy and enthusiasm for the profession, not to mention his productivity, is at a very high level.”

Reviewer C

“Paul Rardin’s record documents that he has made an outstanding contribution in all of the areas of review and suggests that his contribution to his profession will expand in the future. Rarely have I come across a more worthy candidate for tenure than that of Professor Paul Rardin.”

Reviewer D

“Paul has an excellent ear, wide-ranging interests in a variety of musical styles, a firm knowledge of repertoire, and great experience in the university rehearsal room and classroom. He is an engaging performer, a good leader, and a first-rate mentor to young people who aspire to careers in music.”

Reviewer E

“He is without question one of the foremost young teacher/conductors in the field of choral music in this country. He has gained a national reputation through his active profile with the American Choral Conductors Association, through his guest conducting and teaching, and through the publication of his compositions and arrangements.”

Reviewer F

“I read with interest Paul’s teaching statement. It reflects well on his character and nurturing personality. He is a true educator in the opening of windows sense-of-the-word. He seems to understand the balance (often precarious) between demanding and nurturing, as well as the importance of connecting his students to historical, cultural, religious, and social insights of the music his choirs sing.”

Reviewer G

“Dr. Rardin seems to be an enthusiastic, organized, and effective teacher. Dr. Rardin enjoys a growing reputation as a well-respected university choral conductor. He is certainly in the top echelon of his peer group.”

Reviewer H

“Dr. Rardin is on his way to establishing a national reputation merely by what I have cited and by his numerous articles that are being read and compositions that are being performed throughout the United States. He is a fine teacher who presents a fresh approach to teaching.”

Reviewer I

“Musically, technically, and spiritually, he is a consummate performing artist. His verbal program notes during the concert were extraordinarily knowledgeable, illuminating, and well delivered. His communicative skills with both the performers and the audience were at the very highest level of excellence.”

Reviewer J

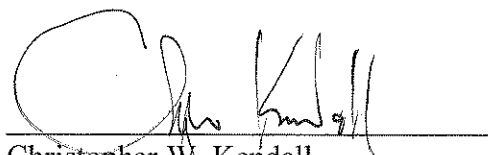
“He has been productive in conducting and scholarly research and he has been very productive in the workshop/clinic settings – all of which make him visible within the choral musical professional community. I believe he will maintain his productivity and strengthen his contributions with time.”

Reviewer K

“Dr. Rardin’s recordings display extremely healthy, well-energized singing, and a genuine sense of drama and excitement. Paul’s other scholarly work is also far above the norm of what is seen in our field, both in quality and quantity. Paul is emerging as one of the national leaders in choral music.”

Internal Review: Professor Rardin has been described as a consummate professional and a stellar role model for students and faculty. He is supportive, enthusiastic, and organized. He gives meticulous attention to every detail of his work. He has an extraordinary talent for team-building, for getting people to work together to achieve a common goal. His leadership roles in the department and the School are growing and greatly appreciated.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Rardin has struck an effective balance between his creative work, teaching, and service. He is an emerging leader in the School, and is a valuable colleague and resource. Professor Rardin’s gifts will continue to flourish on many levels, and we are honored to have him among our faculty. It is with great enthusiasm and with the support of the School’s Executive Committee that I recommend the granting of tenure, to be held with his current title of associate professor of music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

May 2008