

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

John Logan Skelton, associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

**Academic Degrees:**

D.M.A.	1991	(Piano Performance) Manhattan School of Music
M.M.	1986	(Piano Performance and Literature) Eastman School of Music
B.M.	1983	(Piano Performance) summa cum laude, Loyola University

**Professional Record:**

1999 – present	Associate Professor, with tenure, University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
1996 – 1999	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
1995 – 1996	Associate Professor, with tenure, Missouri State University
1990 – 1995	Assistant Professor, Missouri State University
1988 – 1990	Adjunct Professor, Manhattan School of Music

**Summary of Evaluation:**

**Teaching:** Professor Skelton is a consummate musician who capably and willingly applies his analytical skills, pianistic knowledge, musicianship and energy to his pedagogical calling. His approach to teaching is thoughtful and meticulous; he has the highest standards of personal achievement for all of his students. He prepares his students wonderfully for their professional careers, and they routinely participate in local, national, and international competitions, frequently winning or placing. The School of Music, Theatre & Dance has recognized Professor Logan's success as a teacher, awarding him the prestigious Harold Haugh Award for excellence in studio teaching. His strong reputation as a skilled solo pianist, collaborative artist and outstanding pedagogue enable him to attract and recruit some of the most talented students to our School.

**Professional and Creative Activity:** Professor Skelton's reputation as a pianist and a composer is evident. He performs and lectures regularly at national and international festivals, especially in Prague, Romania, Poland and Taiwan. He enjoys an active performing career, which has included the release of 10 commercial CDs on well-known and respected labels. His playing displays great passion, technical prowess, and probing artistry. His compositional work reveals an expansive creative maturity, and he frequently performs his own works with great success. He is an especially gifted song composer whose sensitivity to poetical language and wide range of musical responses to it are second (on our faculty) only to those of Bill Bolcom.

**Service:** In addition to the routine duties and responsibilities of a faculty member in the School, Professor Skelton has provided an extraordinary amount of high-level service to the School. Since 2000, he has been the director of the Doctoral Studies in Piano Performance program, interim chair and chair of the Department of Piano, twice elected for service on the School's Executive Committee, and was primarily responsible for revamping the DMA curriculum in piano performance.

**External Reviewers:****Reviewer A**

“With so many institutions within the Midwest pursuing the same group of talented pianists and only limited funding available, Dr. Skelton’s amazingly successful recruiting record demonstrates that students, and colleagues referring their students to the University of Michigan, are aware of his pedagogical skill and musical stature and are requesting him specifically as their performance instructor.”

**Reviewer B**

“He communicates his ideas to students very clearly and he shows a great deal of experience in evaluating student’s problems and deficiencies, and focusing on those requiring an immediate attention. I respect Professor Skelton very much as a pianist, teacher and composer, and I am especially impressed with his passion for teaching piano, very hard work, and a tireless pursuit of excellence.”

**Reviewer C**

“... I have become even more impressed by the broadness of his accomplishments. His talent for service to the University and to the larger community is no surprise to me, given his energy, high standards and ability to get along with people.”

**Reviewer D**

“Professor Skelton consistently impresses me with his energy, enthusiasm, and meticulousness. These qualities are especially apparent in the performances of his students, who are invariably well equipped with solid basics and consistently among the top achievers. He is known among his colleagues for the great care he shows for his students even after they leave the school – a mark of a truly dedicated educator.”

**Reviewer E**

“He is very much a radio broadcast presence, both as performer and pedagogue. And in addition to a full performing and teaching schedule, he has consistently found the time to work with living composers, to record their music and to compose, perform and record his own music. Truly a renaissance scholar in the best sense of the word!”

**Reviewer F**

“Logan Skelton is a most distinguished, important, respected and valuable colleague in the music profession. His devotion and services are valuable and dignified representations of the University of Michigan School of Music.”

**Reviewer G**

“As a person, I would describe Logan as dedicated, quietly intense, astute, most sincere and cooperative. He is one of those teachers who really cares about his students, and goes the extra mile to get through to them. The energy he radiates is totally positive. One could not ask for a more supportive or helpful colleague in the profession.”

**Reviewer H**

“Logan’s performances are daring, utterly committed, and mesmerizing. The other documentation of Logan’s course work, recruiting, etc., simply confirms my impression that he is a major figure in his department and a presence in the profession as a whole. In every way, Professor Skelton seems to be the very model of what any top school would want its faculty to be.”

**Reviewer I**

"... I have had the opportunity of working with many of the leading teachers/performers in the U.S. and other countries, and without a doubt, Logan Skelton has been one of the very best among those I have had the pleasure of working with."

**Reviewer J**

"Taken as a whole, Logan's work really is seen as a special event, something not ordinary, but rather unique and highly artistic. His composition gives him a somewhat different and distinctive professional profile."

**Reviewer K**

"Professor Skelton's continuing participation in highly visible festivals here and abroad is a guarantee that he will continue to successfully recruit more students and the results so far speak highly to the fact that students view him as a highly-desirable teacher."

**Reviewer L**

"In my view, Dr. Skelton is one of the best piano teachers in the country, and I am told by students, the most sought after piano teacher at Michigan. Dr. Skelton is a brilliant man with broad interests; an inquisitive, creative mind; strong talent as a performer, composer, and teacher; and exceptionally high standards as a human being."

**Reviewer M**

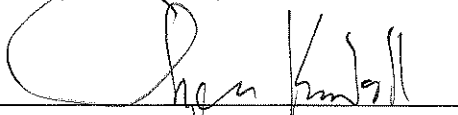
"There is no doubt that he is one of the leading artist-teachers of piano in the world today. He presents master classes in the most important conservatories in the world. His students enter the most important competitions in the world and are very successful."

**Reviewer N**

"He appears to be aggressive in pursuing an active career as performer, teacher, adjudicator, lecturer, author, and composer, the sheer magnitude of which is impressive indeed!"

**Internal Review:** Professor Skelton is a hard-working, creative, and dedicated colleague. He has received excellent evaluations from his colleagues who describe him as fair and trustworthy. He is a wonderful and thoughtful mentor to junior faculty.

**Summary of Recommendation:** Logan Skelton is an excellent and extremely valuable faculty member in the School. He provides an exemplary level of service as well as a wide-ranging, international professional record. It is with great enthusiasm and the unanimous support of the School's Executive Committee that I recommend John Logan Skelton for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

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

May 2008