

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

Approved by the Regents  
May 20, 2010

Evan K. Chambers, 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. 1993 University of Michigan (Composition)  
M.M. 1989 University of Michigan (Composition)  
B.M. 1985 Bowling Green State University (Viola Performance)

Professional Record:

2001-present Associate Professor, Department of Composition, University of Michigan  
1993-2001 Assistant Professor, Department of Composition, University of Michigan  
1990-93 Teaching Assistant in Electronic Music and Composition,  
University of Michigan  
1991 Adjunct Instructor of Orchestration, University of Michigan  
1989-90 Assistant Director of the New Music and Art Festival, Assistant to the Contemporary  
Music Program, Bowling Green State University  
1988 Adjunct Instructor of Electronic Music, Adrian College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Chambers' inherent humanitarianism is mirrored in his affinity for teaching. He provides meaningful and consistent mentoring and guidance in composition, historical traditions, and artistic innovation, yet perceives when students need space to make their own discoveries. He exposes students to a wide range of musical styles and genres, offering them a more holistic and eclectic view, which is a distinguishing characteristic of the School's highly-regarded Department of Composition. He is a master at helping students build the confidence to become independent thinkers and expand their intellectual and artistic horizons. Professor Chambers' students describe him as engaging, challenging, clarifying and caring. His diplomatic skills are well known within the School and beyond. He is generous to a fault with his time, devoting a precious amount of it to students. He teaches all levels, from first-years to doctoral candidates. Several of his students have won prestigious awards as well as having their works performed nationally.

Professional Activities: While the external reviewers may differ, based on personal tastes, about details in their assessment of Professor Chambers' compositions, they all agree that his music is powerful, compelling, technically brilliant, and in sum a major contribution to the American cultural scene. His music has received honors from such institutions as the American Academy of Arts and Letters and The MacDowell Colony. He has received commissions from prominent ensembles like the Chicago Symphony, and performances in top venues like Carnegie Hall, where *The Old Burying Ground* was heard in 2007, in its final version as an epic orchestral song cycle interspersed with readings by a number of poets who had created new work specifically for the Carnegie Hall performance. This single work has been hailed as a masterpiece and is among the outstanding orchestral works by American composers in recent years; it will further solidify his national reputation as a composer. Professor Chambers' scores reveal his technical prowess with a broad array of media—acoustical, electronic, and vocal. Professor Chambers diversifies his professional

profile with scholarly publications for the Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States and the International Computer Music Association.

Service: Professor Chambers has established a vast and prodigious record of service. He is a recurring reviewer for OVPR research grants applications. He chaired the provostial search advisory committee for the dean of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. He is on the steering committee for the presidential initiative Ethics in Public Life. He was a member of the advisory committee for the Electronic Music Studio Renovation, served two replacement terms on the School's Executive Committee, and has participated on the Scholarship Committee, the Faculty Council on Graduate Studies, the Council of Department Representatives, and numerous faculty search committees. Professor Chambers has chaired the Department of Composition on two separate occasions, from 2003 through 2005, and again from 2006 to the present. Additional departmental responsibilities range from academic advising and participation on dissertation committees and thesis committees, to serving as the department's program and admissions coordinator. Professor Chambers is frequently invited to participate on tenure and promotion review committees at other schools.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Evan Chambers' record of academic service, publication, and adjudication is striking, even moving, in its breadth. Such a panoply of achievement reflects enormous energy, intelligence, and dedication far beyond mere career advancement or artistic recognition. Chambers' deep understanding of the workings of academia, and of his mission within it, is clear. In sum, I believe Evan Chambers is a true humanitarian, an important composer, and a highly gifted teacher."

Reviewer B: "Evan is a master of contemporary orchestration (no doubt enriched by his work in digital synthestration) which makes even his simplest chamber music sparkle with fire and color. He has impressed me as a most knowledgeable, respectful, and dedicated composer. He is also, judging from the success and endorsement of his students, a most effective educator."

Reviewer C: "I am confident that his music will continue to circulate and be more and more frequently performed. Evan Chambers' music is built to last. His character and personality are ideally suited to teaching, and I suspect many of his students rank him at the very top of their all-time list of teachers."

Reviewer D: "The accelerating number of opportunities coming his way are a recognition of the hard work he has put in to [sic] each piece and the positive reception they no doubt garner. My expectation is that these opportunities will continue to multiply into the future."

Reviewer E: "Professor Chambers' CV gives ample evidence of his many contributions to the School of Music, whether through teaching, advising, or departmental administration. Many of his musical projects are centered at the School of Music, which seems surprising for a composer as impressive as he. His best music stands up well with the music by his extremely accomplished colleagues at the University of Michigan."

Reviewer F: "Supporting documents for this case paint a picture of an energetic and highly engaged professional composer who has worked tirelessly for his students, the school, and academic matters which have reached beyond his personal and, indeed, departmental interests. In my opinion, his presence as a composer and performer on the large national and international stage will only grow in the future."

Reviewer G: "In summary, the commissions, awards, and performances that Dr. Chambers has received attest to the recognition he enjoys. In my estimation, his creative research in conjunction with his superb service and teaching contributions make him a valued colleague who I am happy to commend for promotion to full professor."

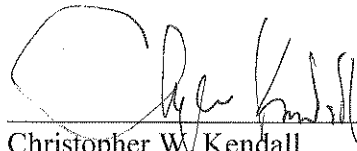
Reviewer H: "He is well known to and much admired by his American colleagues, both for his music and for his teaching. His record of productivity, performances, recordings, commissions, publications, residencies, and prizes is solid. I would trust him with my students – indeed I would count them lucky to profit from so thoughtful and dedicated an artist, mentor, and leader."

Reviewer I: "Chambers' teaching is legendary, even at this distance. I have been hearing for years that this man is really raising the bar at Michigan, and that he consistently takes on more work than most composers would want in the area of teaching. Very few composers are willing to give this much of their time to institutional work, and I believe that Michigan is lucky to have such a gifted composer/administrator. He simply radiates good humor and caring, and there's a sense about him that other people are at least as important as he is – a rarity among talented creative types."

Reviewer J: "Overall, however, I can clearly state that I greatly enjoy and appreciate Professor Chambers' unwavering aesthetic. It portrays a strong voice with a convincing message. He brings to the concert hall a multi-dimensional, meditative sound world, well designed and deeply felt."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Chambers is a treasured and extremely valuable faculty member. He is a natural teacher whose studio is at capacity every semester. His music is powerful, technically refined, and compelling; he is on the cusp of creating the best work of his career. He is a true humanitarian, a trusted leader, and a beloved colleague. His service to the University and the School is prodigious. It is with great enthusiasm and the unanimous support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Evan K. Chambers for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



Christopher W. Kendall  
Dean and Paul/Boylan Collegiate Professor of Music  
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

May 2010