

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

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Jason D. Geary, assistant professor of musicology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2004 Yale University (Musicology)
M.A. 1998 University of Michigan (Musicology)
B.M. 1996 San Francisco Conservatory of Music (Piano Performance)

Professional Record:

2004-present Assistant Professor, Department of Musicology, University of Michigan
2000-02 Graduate Student Instructor, Yale University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Geary's exemplary contributions to the musicology curriculum have been essential to the department's mission both within the School and in the University. Since his arrival at Michigan, Professor Geary's strength in teaching has only increased, as evidenced by the upward trend in his course evaluations. He has been depicted as a rigorous and demanding instructor who asks his students to make a commitment to their own learning about nineteenth-century music. In addition to his scholarly attainments, he is a marvelous pianist, giving him an edge on credibility with the performance-oriented students, as well as adding depth and vitality to his lectures. Professor Geary's approach to the students is professional and reserved, but still highly accessible. He explains musical and historical events and developments in a way that encourages students to learn as they grow in personal understanding, independence, and expertise.

Research: Professor Geary's primary interest is the composer Felix Mendelssohn and his place in nineteenth-century German cultural history, particularly the German revival of ancient Greek tragedy. Much of this research intersects between music and the Hellenism in the nineteenth-century Germany. The majority of external reviewers indicate that Professor Geary's work reveals interesting and provocative thinking that may challenge traditional thought about this subject. His research is profoundly interdisciplinary and deeply thoughtful. His work is of the highest caliber, historically solid and musically detailed. Professor Geary stands at a pivotal point in his scholarly career. He has made significant scholarly contributions to date, but his emergent interest in music and childhood, and in nineteenth-century domestic music has already received an enthusiastic response from the musicology world. Professor Geary shows every promise of strengthening his already commendable research profile in national and international significance.

Service: Described by his colleagues as patient, wise and thoughtful, Professor Geary makes excellent contributions to the department, the School and the University. On a department level,

he serves as the Musicology Department representative to the Council of Departmental Representatives and serves on the Department of Musicology Lecture Committee. Professor Geary has also been very effective as an advisor to undergraduate non-Music majors in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. His level of service is steadily increasing at the School; he served on two faculty search committees in the past two years. At a University level, Professor Geary has made important contributions by serving as a Faculty Senate Representative since 2007. He has also participated in events for the American Musicological Society Committee on Cultural Diversity.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Geary's work does indeed intersect with my areas of interest as a historian engaged with the history of musical practices and the broader contexts for music-making. From that perspective, I find his work sophisticated, persuasive, and important, and I see him as a scholar with tremendous promise for the future."

Reviewer B: "He has always struck me as extremely bright and personable, and I was pleased to see his essay on Mendelssohn in the *Journal of Musicology* in 2006. Jason has also been highly visible as a lecturer: his track record here is impressive indeed, with talks at two recent annual meetings of the American Musicological Society, the American Philological Association, and the German Studies Association annual conference, among others."

Reviewer C: "I honestly detect no substantive fault lines in Geary's scholarship, profile in the discipline, or future plans. He is a rigorous researcher, creative thinker, and eloquent writer who is active in the field, has made significant contributions in a variety of reputable venues, and demonstrates significant promise for a distinguished career in musical scholarship."

Reviewer D: "Professor Geary appears to bring an interesting mix of talents and interests to your faculty. His accomplishments as pianist, choir director, and program annotator indicate a well-rounded personal and professional style. The same might be said of his service record as presented here: he seems genuinely committed to the best interests of your institution and its students."

Reviewer E: "Professor Geary's ideas for the remaining chapters of the *Antigone* book sound interesting, as do his plans for a book on musical treatments of childhood in the nineteenth century..."

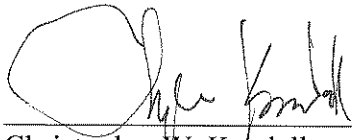
Reviewer F: "Professor Geary argues well and clearly, and engages well with related work, both in musicology and in related fields. Moreover, in the 'promise' dimension, crucial to his level of promotion, is also in place, in that the new directions his three 'in progress' items map out are likely to bear significant fruit."

Reviewer G: "Geary's prospects are so extraordinarily good, and his forthcoming work of such manifest scholarly value, that I am ultimately inclined to recommend him for tenure and promotion; two years from now, he will be a scholar Michigan will be justly proud to have in its ranks."

Reviewer H: "To sum up, Jason stands now just about where he should in a scholarly career that is now well established and promises continuing success. As far as his teaching is concerned, Jason articulates a good philosophy of teaching. He has a substantial and balanced record of service to the University, the community, and the profession."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Geary is a rigorous yet demanding instructor who is committed to his students' education, understanding and independence. He teaches some of more difficult courses in our School with brilliance and creativity. His scholarly work holds such promise that he was recently awarded a research fellowship at the Historical School of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. Professor Geary's level of service to the School and the University has grown substantially during the years, and he has become extremely valuable in this capacity. It is with great enthusiasm and the unanimous support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Jason D. Geary for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Kendall", written over a horizontal line.

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

May 2010