

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

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Christopher T. Harding, assistant professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

A.D. 1998 Indiana University (Artist Diploma)
M.M. 1995 Indiana University, Piano Performance with Performer's Certificate
B.M. 1992 Eastman School of Music, Piano Performance with Performer's Certificate

Professional Record:

2004-present Assistant Professor, Department of Piano, University of Michigan
1999-2004 Assistant Professor of Piano and Director of Keyboard Studies and Chamber Music, Brevard College
1997-1999 Visiting Lecturer in Piano, Indiana University
1994-1997 Instructor, Indiana University Piano Academy
1996-1997 Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music, DePauw University
1995-1997 Instructor of Piano Majors, Indiana University
1993-1997 Faculty Member, Young Pianists Program, Indiana University
1992-1994 Associate Instructor in Piano, Indiana University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Harding has devoted considerable study and effort to the development of his approach to pedagogy. He is an effective instructor, as evidenced by his students' prominent and commendable accomplishments. He has taught a range of courses, from applied chamber coaching to piano chamber repertoire, as well as academic courses related to piano. His students comment on his passion and total commitment to the art and their educational experience in the studio. Professor Harding seeks out assessment of his teaching methodologies from both students and colleagues alike; he incorporates some of these ideas into his pedagogical offerings. He provides a solid foundation for his students' success and future development. Professor Harding's students have also been successful in the highly competitive concerto competitions at Michigan, and the chamber groups under his tutelage have represented the School with exemplary performances. He is a serious and dedicated teacher who has high expectations of himself and his students.

Professional Activities: Professor Harding has accumulated an enviable record of accomplishments that includes a prolific performing career with many solo, lecture-recital, chamber and concerto performances in the United States, Israel, Romania, and many cities throughout Asia. He has produced several recordings and publications, and has successfully obtained funding to support these endeavors. Professor Harding's activities as a Fulbright Senior Specialist have afforded him ample opportunities to establish relationships in numerous countries by giving master classes, lecture-recitals, and piano performances for diplomatic communities

and universities in many cities throughout Asia. His playing is always meticulous, thoughtful, and polished.

Service: The amount of service Professor Harding has rendered the School in the past few years has been truly exemplary. He has served on three faculty search committees, serves as secretary of the Piano Department and represents it on the Committee of Departmental Representatives, and was elected to the Scholarship Committee. To such activities he adds work on doctoral oral examination committees and his tireless efforts in recruiting talented students to the University. Professor Harding has been instrumental in the expansion of chamber music opportunities for our students. Professor Harding is an advisor to the dean for international study, and a member of the Study Abroad Council of the University of Michigan.

External to the University, Professor Harding serves as a liaison for the annual Ann Arbor Society for Music Arts Young Artist Competition. He is also a regular speaker for the Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild, and often serves as a judge for local piano competitions. Additionally, Professor Harding provides artistic services to the U.S. State Department, having been named to the roster of Fulbright Senior Specialists in 2007.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Noteworthy is his being appointed to the roster of Fulbright Senior Specialists by the US State Department, which has opened many doors of performance and teaching opportunities abroad. Professor Harding has compiled a record of achievement that displays a high level of activity in his creative work, his teaching and service. The quality of the work indicates desire and ambition, always underscored by excellent musicianship."

Reviewer B: "Professor Harding's activities in performance are quite extensive. He has cultivated and maintained a relationship with the U.S. State Department, resulting in numerous international appearances. Much is expected from anyone who joins the wonderful artistic environment at the University of Michigan, and it is my opinion that Professor Harding has done well in all that he has been asked to do."

Reviewer C: "As a professional colleague, Professor Harding is a person of musical artistry, personal integrity, keen intellect, outstanding organizational skills, and strong potential for leadership. He is deeply respected by both students and colleagues. From my vantage point, he is a valuable asset to the piano faculty at the University of Michigan."

Reviewer D: "Mr. Harding's playing is clear, transparent in sound, sensitive and thoughtful. In a relatively few years, he appears to have accomplished much of value in his position at the school. The thoroughness of thought, dedication, and the combination of idealism and practicality governing his efforts is refreshing."

Reviewer E: "I was able to listen to his performances of varied repertoire, which I enjoyed enormously. I found them to be very intelligent and technically solid. I was also deeply moved and impressed by his teaching statement, which demonstrated his deep commitment to education and the integrity of his approach."

Reviewer F: "Mr. Harding is a serious musician whose accomplishments are impressive and he remains an active performer in a variety of genres and venues. His international activities are giving him a rather high profile for someone with so few years of teaching at the Assistant Professor level, and are indicative of a growing reputation that should reap many benefits for your music programs, and most specifically, your piano program."

Reviewer G: "He has been very active internationally, prolific in all areas of service and he has accumulated an impressive record of competitive victories and accomplishments. Christopher Harding, with his impeccable performances and world-class teaching, impresses me as few people do."

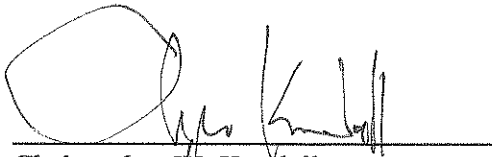
Reviewer H: "As a pedagogue he seems to get a lot of kudos in his class lectures, chamber coaching, etc. Christopher, the performer, is a fine, polished, solid musician with crystal clear technique and fine tonal coloring."

Reviewer I: "All the recordings I heard were characterized by thoughtful preparation, excellent attention to details, and clean and elegant performances. I would certainly support his promotion and tenure..."

Reviewer J: "The sheer number of performances and their national/international scope are amazing for an assistant professor. Clearly, from the list of student accomplishments, and from comments throughout the dossier about his teaching, Professor Harding is an impressive and appreciated teacher – especially, again, for a newer faculty member. His teaching accomplishments obviously predate his arrival at Michigan, but they have flourished now that he is at an institution worthy of all he has to offer. One can only think that he will be a major figure in this field for years to come."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Harding is a meticulous and passionate teacher of piano and chamber music coaching. He has compiled a rich record of professional performance accomplishments. He has developed an international profile that will enhance his career for years to come. It is with great enthusiasm and the unanimous support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Christopher T. Harding for promotion to associate 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