

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Department of Winds and Percussion

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Adam Unsworth, 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:

M.M. 1994 University of Wisconsin, Madison
B.M. 1991 Northwestern University

Professional Record:

2007-present Associate Professor, Department of Winds and Percussion,
University of Michigan
1998-2007 Philadelphia Orchestra, fourth horn
1999-2007 Adjunct Instructor, Coordinator of Brass Repertoire, Temple University
1995-1998 Detroit Symphony Orchestra, second horn

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Unsworth's pedagogy is highly rigorous and manifestly successful. He has done a remarkable job revitalizing and rebuilding the French horn studio in the short period he has been at U-M. Professor Unsworth is already attracting a very high caliber of graduate and undergraduate students, and their quality is reflected in our ensembles at all levels. His outstanding musical training and professional experience in some of the world's finest orchestras have prepared him well to be an excellent teacher. Professor Unsworth's student feedback has been favorable and is improving every semester, particularly as students from the former French horn teacher are supplanted by those who have come to U-M specifically to study with Professor Unsworth. He provides his students excellent coaching and mentorship, and equally important, is respectful of the musical diversity and the differing needs and talents of individual students. He is encouraging, thoughtful, exceedingly gifted, and a dynamic recruiter of talented horn students. His recruiting ability is reflected in the external reviewers' letters, which mention their own students' positive response to Professor Unsworth. Such superior praise speaks to Unsworth's increasing national presence in the French horn world.

Professional Activities: Professor Unsworth is very active as a performer in a wide variety of settings and styles. He has performed for a dozen years with some of the world's greatest orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the Pittsburgh Symphony. He is a sought-after soloist and chamber musician; this is reflected in his many performances with the Philadelphia Brass Ensemble and with the Michigan Chamber Players. What particularly distinguishes Professor Unsworth's artistry is his unusual ability to play jazz as well as classical music on the French horn. This combination (extraordinary for his instrument) reflects his innovative musical spirit and his brilliant and highly flexible technique. Professor Unsworth's CD recordings have received favorable reviews and comments from around the country; he has also published several articles in musical journals. Comfortable in

solo, chamber and orchestral settings, as well as the jazz arena, Professor Unsworth is held in high regard throughout the profession and has built a fine reputation nationally, and internationally.

Service: Since his arrival at the University, Professor Unsworth has been involved with numerous service-oriented activities. His performances at faculty recitals and concerts included an original composition at the 2008 Martin Luther King Day Concert. Professor Unsworth has coached French horn and brass sectionals for the University Symphony Orchestra, the University Philharmonic Orchestra, Symphony Band, and the Michigan Youth Symphony Orchestra. He has also helped judge the School's Concerto Competition. Last year, Professor Unsworth was invited to serve on a School committee charged with the task of re-structuring the Contemporary Directions Ensemble. He has served on examination committees for several doctoral students, and offers countless hours to advising and mentoring students.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "I have found Professor Unsworth's accomplishments to be exceptional in every category. His scholarly and creative contributions, listed in his dossier, are indeed impressive. His former career in major orchestras and his continued work with the orchestras of Detroit, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh as a guest hornist indicate his standing at the very top of the field of orchestral horn playing."

Reviewer B: "It was not surprising to hear how wonderful Adam played considering his reputation in the horn world, but what was surprising was how focused, professional, and supportive he was even in the semi-solo and thankless position of 4th horn. Already Adam's teaching reputation is extremely high..."

Reviewer C: "It is heartening to hear a hornist play jazz and make you forget what instrument he is playing. This is possible in Adam Unsworth's case because his technical foundation is so firm and so deep. I think at this point it is safe to say that, with his background and schooling, his professional experience, and his current activities as a soloist and as a jazz musician, he presents a unique dossier as a professor, and a unique perspective to potential students."

Reviewer D: "Adam is a truly unique talent, with interests and abilities in both classical and jazz music. The fact that he has interests in both is not unusual – the fact that he has attained a truly world-class performance level in both is extremely rare. What is interesting is that both fields have informed the other, with positive results for both. Professor Unsworth has worked hard to gain national and international attention for the horn studio at the University of Michigan..."

Reviewer E: "His name is well known to me, as a result of his rising prominence in the field of higher education and his continued prominence in the field of performance (both classical and jazz). I am particularly impressed by the ways Professor Unsworth is using his own research/performance in his teaching, such as emphasizing improvisation in his teaching and using his experiences from the world-class Philadelphia Orchestra in the Brass Repertory Class at UM."

Reviewer F: "His teaching philosophy is both detailed and applicable, complete with very intelligent and well balanced exercises. I must comment that his work in the jazz area is exceptionally creative, especially for a hornist. All of these things contribute to a very fine local, national, and international profile."

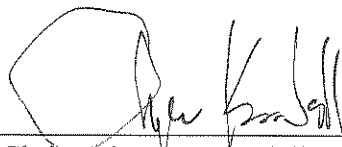
Reviewer G: "The recordings were remarkable, first of all for the quality of horn playing, which is at the highest level technically, but also demonstrating outstanding musicality and versatility in a number of different styles and types of ensembles. The statement on his teaching and the studies and exercises for horn reflect a well thought out approach to teaching."

Reviewer H: "This is a very easy letter for me to write for a number of reasons. I believe Adam Unsworth to be a highly intelligent person of strong personal integrity and character as well as a performer and teacher with very high musical and professional standards. Because of his diversity and superb talents as a hornist and creative musician, I find him to be one of the most compelling brass players of his generation."

Reviewer I: "Adam Unsworth is a very gifted and special horn player and teacher. Few horn players combine a thorough knowledge of the orchestral repertoire (as evidenced by his time in the Philadelphia Orchestra) with a flair for jazz – Adam has much to offer to a School of Music and its students."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Unsworth is an unusually gifted musician and performer. He has made a smooth transition from the professional to the academic world, and is successfully recruiting, teaching and mentoring musical talent for the School. Professor Unsworth has exceeded our expectations in rebuilding the French horn studio, and we look forward to a long relationship with him as a distinguished member of our faculty. It is with great enthusiasm and the unanimous support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Adam Unsworth for the granting of tenure to be held with his current title of associate professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

May 2010