

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Amy K. Stillman, associate professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of musicology, without tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of musicology, without tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1991	Harvard University
M.A.	1985	Harvard University
M.A.	1982	University of Hawai'i, Manoa
B.A.	1980	University of Hawai'i, Manoa
B.Music	1978	University of Hawai'i, Manoa

Professional Record:

2000 – present	Associate Professor, Program in American Culture, and Director, Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies), University of Michigan
1998 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Musicology, University of Michigan
1997 – 1998	Associate Professor, Department of Music, University of California, Santa Barbara
1991 – 1997	Assistant Professor, Department of Music, University of California, Santa Barbara

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Stillman teaches seminar-size courses on musicology, middle-size courses on hula, and large lecture courses on American musical cultures and Asian American and Pacific Islander American studies. Her courses are popular among students and her evaluation scores are outstanding. She has mentored graduate students as a member of dissertation committees in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. She is frequently called upon to serve on committees in other states.

Research – Professor Stillman, an ethnomusicologist, has emerged as the leading scholar of hula, the indigenous poetic, dance, and song tradition of Hawaii. She has produced eleven scholarly essays, 21 encyclopedia entries, seven CDs, an inventory of Hawaiian sheet music at the U.S. Library of Congress, a songbook based on her two Hawaiian language CDs, and a draft manuscript introduction to her critical edition, *Hawaiian Songs: Ancient and Modern*. She was the research consultant for the PBS Point of View program, “American Aloha: Hula Beyond Hawaii,” which premiered in 2003. With 50 conference papers and lectures delivered in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and Japan, she is an active scholar who has achieved an international reputation as well as public stature, which has been recognized by the recording industry’s GRAMMY nomination in 2010 and GRAMMY award in 2009. She won the Harold Johnson Diversity Service Award in 2002, awarded by Michigan’s Provost’s office.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- “Access and control: A key to reclaiming the right to construct Hawaiian history,” in *Music and Cultural Rights*, A. N. Weintraub and B. Yung (eds.), University of Illinois Press, 2009, pp. 86-109.
- “Hula and legacies of institutionalization,” *Comparative American Studies*, 5(2), 2007, pp. 221-234.
- “Textualizing Hawaiian music,” *American Music*, 23(1), 2005, pp. 69-94.
- “Pacific-ing Asian Pacific American history,” *Journal of Asian American Studies*, 7(3), 2004, pp. 241-270.

Service – Professor Stillman served for seven years as director of Asian/Pacific Island studies in the Program in American Culture. She developed the University’s first ethnic studies’ minor, and she recruited a faculty now widely recognized as the best on the continent, perhaps in the world, in Pacific Island studies. She served for many years on the American Culture Executive Committee.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Stillman is considered the current preeminent authority in the area of Hawaiian traditional music. ...[she] possesses a depth of knowledge in her area that is simply unmatched by anyone else. ...[*Hawaiian Songs: Ancient and Modern*] will be an exceptional addition to the literature...”

Reviewer (B)

“I have tremendous respect for Dr. Stillman, and regard her as the leading scholar of Pacific Islands performance currently working in the U.S. academy. ... She offers here a truly transformative reconceptualizing of Hawaiian music... This is a work to be reckoned with... It is an immense contribution... She is truly an exceptional talent and a notable scholar who is charting new territories with integrity and courage in a realm that has direct impact on living communities outside the academy as well as scholarly ones.”

Reviewer (C)

“In the field of Hawaiian music/dance studies, Stillman is clearly a leader. ... In the field of ethnomusicology more generally, her work is highly regarded. ... While ethnomusicologists frequently work with different media, few are legitimately curators, dancers, scholars, CD producers, and university administrators as well as being traditional scholars who write articles and deliver conference papers. ... Her archival work sets new standards of documentation... I have no hesitation in recommending that she be promoted to be ‘professor with tenure.’”

Reviewer (D)

“...Stillman is the world expert on Hawaiian musicology, and is without equal in her field. She is also one of the world’s leading experts on Tahitian musicology. Her publications in these fields are prodigious and unmatched by any other scholar anywhere in the world. Her production of CDs of ancient and traditional Hawaiian chant and music are treasures for the Hawaiian people and for scholars of musicology worldwide.”

Reviewer (E)

“Amy is the acknowledged leader today in the ethnomusicological study of both ancient and contemporary Hawaiian music and dance. It is truly wonderful to see a person of Amy’s obvious scholarly talents to also be an award-winning member of a larger, commercial community. ...I highly recommend the promotion of Amy K. Stillman to the rank of professor. I have tremendous respect and admiration for her intelligence, the integrity of her work, and of its contribution to a holistic understanding of America’s music.”

Reviewer (F)


“... ‘Representing Hawaiian Music’ ... will be definitive. Stillman’s essay is fittingly comprehensive, covering several centuries, multiple genres as well as broader questions of historiography, representation, race, and colonialism. ... Hula is perhaps the most visible aspect of Hawaiian culture outside of the islands, and its very visibility brings up issues about representation, power and resistance, race, and colonialism. ... Her blend of meticulous scholarship, thoughtful cultural critique, and creative energies have truly made her distinctive, and the University of Michigan should make haste in promoting her...”

Reviewer (G)


“I am aware of the reputation she has in the Music community and can easily vouch for her importance in the scholarly world beyond Michigan. ... Her knowledge of the Hawaiian language makes her analysis of lyric as literature credible both in academia and in the much more demanding cultural arenas in Hawai’i. It is safe to say that there is probably no genre of Hawaiian music with which Stillman is unfamiliar and that in the area of the 1880s music of the Kalākaua family she is one of only a few true experts. Given that, her willingness to share this archive is the mark of a visionary.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Stillman is a leader in her field and she will continue to produce outstanding research over the course of her career. Her contributions to the teaching and service missions of her units have been substantial. The Executive Committees of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the School of Theatre, Music & Dance and we recommend that Associate Professor Amy K. Stillman be promoted to the rank of professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of musicology, without tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History and Dean,
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts



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

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