

Promotion Recommendation
The University of Michigan
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Steven Moore Whiting, associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Musicology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Musicology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1991	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
M.M.	1984	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
B.A.	1975	Macalester College

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002	Associate Director, International Institute, University of Michigan
1999 – present	Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Musicology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
1998 – 2002	Director, Center for European Studies, International Institute, University of Michigan
1992 – 1999	Assistant Professor of Music, Department of Musicology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
1992	Visiting Assistant Professor of Musicology, Indiana University
1991 – 1992	Visiting Assistant Professor of Music History/Musicology, University of Michigan
1985, 1989-1991	Visiting Lecturer in Musicology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1985 – 1989	Editor, A-R Editions, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Possessing a natural gift for teaching and public speaking, Professor Whiting's student evaluations are among the highest in the department. His courses are consistently in high demand, and his unalloyed love for the music he teaches is well known to students in the School. Professor Whiting has an impressive command of the bibliography and histories associated with the repertoires he teaches. He offers profound intellectual and cultural insights while at the same time making music appealing and accessible to a wide clientele. He has an irresistible flair for the dramatic in his presentation. His former students praise him for providing a thorough scholarly foundation, regardless of their specific areas of interest, and fondly remember him as a great mentor who was thoughtful, available, and quietly encouraging.

Research: Professor Whiting's research is internationally known and universally described as exemplary, engaging, cogent, and accessible. His book on Erik Satie (1999) was well-received and remains one of the most authoritative available on the subject. His published works on Beethoven have appeared in prestigious journals and are cited with regularity by Beethoven scholars. Professor Whiting is a discriminating scholar who offers genuinely original work that is thoroughly researched, historically accurate, imaginative, and compellingly and elegantly written. Because he is willing to challenge and build on existing theories, numerous reviewers eagerly anticipate Professor Whiting's next long-term project, which will examine the impact of theatre on Beethoven's instrumental music.

Service: Professor Whiting's service profile is prolific and speaks powerfully to his contributions to the School and the University at large. Most noteworthy have been his past roles as associate director of the International Institute from 2000 through 2002, and his service as associate dean of graduate studies from 2003 to the present. Further contributing to his already ambitious service record, he plays numerous mentorship roles as well as key posts as a dissertation leader. He is sought after as a speaker and narrator, recognized for his sonorous and charismatic delivery. He maintains critical relationships with Rackham, central administration, University Musical Society, numerous departments within and external to the School, and national organizations central to his area of primary pedagogical endeavor. He is endowed with a natural affinity of service and endless goodwill, making him a model ambassador for our School and the University.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Steven certainly has as much in his publication dossier as a great many full professors at comparable institutions. His book on *Satie* remains the standard in the field, and his writings on Beethoven, though scattered in a variety of sources, are cited with regularity by Beethoven scholars."

Reviewer B: "Professor Whiting's writings are exemplary. The historical and factual basis of his articles is solid, thoroughly researched and displaying knowledge of the most recent scholarship. He examines musical works, not as isolated, autonomous objects, but within a biographical and cultural context. And above all, he offers fresh interpretations and original slants on the musical works that he engages. He maintains an active research program despite the demands of significant administrative duties, he is a versatile and superior teacher, and his service is truly exceptional."

Reviewer C: "What impressed me immediately, and continues to impress me, is his encyclopedic command of the milieu of late nineteenth-century Parisian popular culture. He remains a foremost authority in his area, an authority achieved through years of patient work with archival and primary materials. Professor Whiting has also worked on Beethoven, most recently in the area of programmatic readings of some of the instrumental music. He is widely respected in the discipline."

Reviewer D: "I should add that I have never seen a longer list, on a c.v., of public talks and pre-concert lectures. Wow, Whiting must really love doing this. And he clearly does it

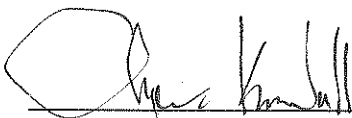
extraordinarily well. *On the Political Uses of Beethoven's Ninth* is simply one of the most effective public talks about a work of Western classical music that I have ever encountered. From a scholarly point of view, I can certainly say that Steven Whiting has earned the rank of full professor."

Reviewer E: "A close reading of the three Beethoven papers submitted with his dossier confirms my impression that Steven Whiting is a Beethoven scholar of genuine distinction. We live in a time when a fair amount of finger-painting passes for scholarship, when ideology and factional politics can often trump serious professional qualifications, and in which historical studies in music, as elsewhere in the humanities, are under challenge. Whiting's work in his areas of Beethoven scholarship combines insight, imagination and a wide command of the historical and factual dimensions of his subject. He deserves the recognition that such a promotion will bring."

Reviewer F: "Indeed, it seems that Whiting can turn his honed intellectual powers to almost any subject, and every piece of his that I read impressed me by the diligence of its preparation, its willingness to challenge and build on existing theories, and by its rare accessibility, open-mindedness and underlying humanity. Not only is his immaculate prose both enlightening and unerringly logical, it also has its audience ever in mind and makes compelling reading. Indeed, it seems that whatever Whiting turns his hand to becomes a hard act to follow, and to my mind his combined portfolio of achievement presents the strongest possible evidence for the award of full professor."

Reviewer G: "I must say that Whiting has an usual CV, but his characteristically witty and charmingly rueful self-presentation in the research letter does not adequately reveal its strengths. For one thing, his scholarship is outstanding: he makes connections between areas of artistic experience that are both revelatory and solidly grounded. Where he has been hugely active is in what might be called a public musicology role, and from the talks he submitted in the dossier I can see that he has been an exemplary member of the scholarly community, one who can take original research and make it vivid and important for many different constituencies. He is a first-rate writer and speaker."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Whiting is a scholar of indisputable distinction and a deeply musical individual who has made significant contributions on the studies of Beethoven and Satie. He is an outstanding teacher, eloquent speaker, and a thoughtful and conscientious administrator and colleague. It is with the enthusiastic support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee to recommend Steven Moore Whiting for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Musicology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

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