

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
University of Michigan-Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Music

Brian W. DiBlassio, assistant professor of music, Department of Music, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Music, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Master of Music	1999	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Bachelor of Music	1991	University of Miami, Miami, Florida

Professional Record:

2006 – Present	Assistant Professor of Music, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint
2005 – 2006	Lecturer II, Department of Music, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint
2004 – 2005	Lecturer I, Department of Music, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint
2000 – 2005	Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Music, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint
2003 – 2004	Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio
1993 – 2002	Director of Jazz Studies, School for the Performing Arts, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor DiBlassio’s teaching at UM-Flint dates to 2000. During this time he has devised and revised courses, consistently honed his classroom pedagogy, and directed a number of UM-Flint jazz ensembles that have also contributed greatly to his students’ success. He has a well-conceived philosophy of teaching across a wide range of courses that has been favorably evaluated by current and former students as well as peers.

Creative Work – Professor DiBlassio has over thirty arrangements for jazz ensemble since 2006. He is particularly adept in the area of Latin jazz. Publications and commissions include music composed for Michigan Public Television, UM-Flint ensembles, and the Flint Symphony Orchestra. External reviewers praise his output, with one calling him “a musician who is at the highest level in his field.”

Recent and Significant Publications:

- DiBlassio, Brian. Orchestration for the Flint Symphony Orchestra, 2011 Christmas Pops Concert. December 2011.
- DiBlassio, Brian. Jazz piece for the UM-Flint Wind Symphony. November 2011.
- DiBlassio, Brian. Arrangements and recording collaboration of *Polegnala e Todora* and *Tah Chuli lih steh* (Bulgarian folk pieces) for colleague Gabriela Hristova's university grant project. September 2011.
- DiBlassio, Brian. Arrangement of *Little Wing* for the Onondaga Community College Jazz Ensemble at the Syracuse Jazz Festival. June 2011.
- DiBlassio, Brian. *Christmas Comes But Once a Year*, arranged/co-composed with Sylvia Pittman for the Flint Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Pops Concert. December 2010.
- DiBlassio, Brian. Presentation: *Clare Fischer's Compositional Innovations within the Latin-Jazz Montuno* at the First International Clare Fischer Symposium, Graz, Austria. May 1-7, 2010.
- DiBlassio, Brian. Piano arrangements and recording for *Go Fishin! VBS: Review and Herald*, 2011. A set of children's Bible study songs by Silvia Pittman, Flint School for the Performing Arts Voice Department Chair. April 2010.
- DiBlassio, Brian. Transcription/Score of *A Spiritual Medley for Great Day! A Celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation*, Flint Jubilee Chorale, Flint Institute of Music's Black History Month Concert. February 2010.
- DiBlassio, Brian. Transcription/Score of *Christmastime* for Flint Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Pops Concert. December 2009.
- DiBlassio, Brian. Scores of spirituals for Ivan Davis, Wayne State University. October 2009.
- DiBlassio, Brian. Composed Michigan Television theme music. Recording produced in collaboration with UM-Flint students and UM-Ann Arbor School of Music and Duderstat recording facilities. Video documentary of composing/recording process produced by Donna Ryen, Michigan Television. Aired October 2009 – February 2010.
- DiBlassio, Brian. Arrangements and Transcriptions written for UM-Flint Jazz Ensemble. 2006 to present.

A Little Max – Duke Ellington
Baghdad Blues – Horace Silver
Blackwidow Blues – Brandford Marsalis
Bolivia – Cedar Walton
Club G.R.O.S.S. – Chris Thiele
Cry Me A River – Arthur Hamilton
Cuba Te Llamo – Mamborama
Dat Dere – Bobby Timmons
Donde Estabas Tu – Tito Puente
East of the Sun – Brooks Bowman
Epistrophe – Thelonious Monk
Fleurette Africaine – Duke Ellington
Home Fries – Joshua Redman
I'll See You In My Dreams – Isham Jones
Mas Que Nada – Jorge Ben
Medley 1 – James Brown

Medley 2 – James Brown
Mindanao – Cal Tjader
Love Me Or Leave Me – Walter Donaldson
Lyne's Joint – Russell Gunn
El Muchacho – H. Owen Reed
Naquela Tempo – Pixinguinha
Nueva Era – Orlando Valle
The Scene Is Clean – Tadd Dameron
Sister Sadie – Horace Silver
Speak Low – Kurt Weill
Step Lightly – Benny Golson
Takeatron – Slavic Soul Party
Time Control – Hiromi Uehara
Uninvisible – Medeski, Martin and Wood
Upside Downside – Mike Stern
Virgo – Horace Silver

Service – Professor DiBlassio is a regular and thoughtful contributor to institutional governance at the Department and College levels. As an untenured faculty member he has served as interim chair of his department, as well as on numerous other important committees.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A):

“...the large number of performances he has engaged in is important and commendable. He performs regularly and often in a Latin Jazz context, but also in straight-ahead jazz and classical settings as well. Also impressive, is the number of arrangements he has written specifically for his jazz ensemble. These activities are important as they serve as valuable examples for students who are learning first-hand the level of skill, professionalism and passion necessary to have a successful career in music.”

Reviewer (B):

“The scholarly impact of Mr. DiBlassio’s compositions and arrangements is vast and shows great dedication to the music as well as to on and off campus organizations.”

Reviewer (C):

“... Professor DiBlassio has demonstrated himself to be in very good professional standing within our field, and I would expect that the professional foundation that he has created will continue to benefit both him and your institution for years to come, and in increasingly prominent ways.”

Reviewer (D):

“Dr. DiBlassio’s work is of a very high quality. This is reflected in the numerous performances, recordings and commissions presented as well as the score examples contained in his portfolio. Not just the quantity but also the quality is most impressive.”

Reviewer (E):

“I find Dr. DiBlassio’s creative portfolio to be well beyond what could ever be expected of a college professor. His output of works, his various commissions, including for the Flint Symphony, the UW-Flint Wind Symphony, external college jazz groups, and the Michigan PBS music, all reveal a musician who is at the highest level in his field.”

Reviewer (F):

“His presentation: *Clare Fischer’s Compositional Innovations within the Latin-Jazz Montuno* at the First International Clare Fischer Symposium, Graz, Austria, May 1-7, 2010, and his pending 2012 Jazz Education Network publication, *Building an Authentic Rhythm Section for Latin Charts*, indicate a strong potential for continued contributions in the academic arena.”

Reviewer (G):

“I found all of his work to be outstanding. I thought his piano performance with Los Gatos was excellent. I was also impressed that he performed music from the western European tradition and a contemporary composition by David Baker...”

Summary of Recommendation:

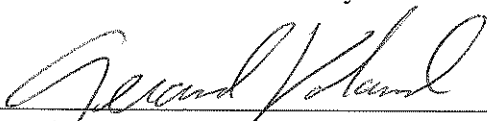
Given outstanding teaching, consistent and prolific creative activity and quality service, the Executive Committee and Dean are pleased to unanimously recommend the promotion of Brian W. DiBlassio to the rank of associate professor of music, with tenure, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:

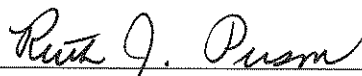


D. J. Trela, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Gerard Voland, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Ruth J. Person, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2012