

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

Freda A. Herseth, associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Honorary D.M.	2001	University of Puget Sound
M.M. (and Performer's Certificate)	1979	Eastman School of Music
B.M. (cum laude)	1977	University of Puget Sound

Professional Record:

1999 – present	Associate Professor of Music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
2004 – 2010	Director/Teacher, Voice Program, Florence, Italy, University of Michigan
2001 – 2002	Adjunct Professor of Voice, Cleveland Institute of Music
1995 – 1999	Assistant Professor of Music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
1997 – 1999	Vocal Artist/Voice Teacher, Brevard Music Center
1988 – 1994	Private Studio Teaching, Stuttgart, Germany
1982	Guest Teacher for Jan DeGaetani, Eastman School of Music
1981 – 1983	Instructor of Voice, Lehigh University

In addition to the academic degrees noted above, Professor Herseth has furthered her educational experience with the receipt of a Fulbright grant taken at one of the most respected traditional vocational universities in Germany, the Hochschule für Musik, Munich from 1979 through 1980. In 1976, she advanced her studies abroad at the Amerika-Institut in Vienna, and also at the Goethe-Institut in Blaubeuren, Germany, in 1979.

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Herseth has been described as a teacher's teacher. She is the rare academic who continues to perform professionally and in so doing, recruits some of the most talented voice students to the school. She retains and educates these students in ways that are critical to maintaining our excellence as one of the top-rated music schools in the country. Within the walls of her studio, she is flexible, creative, supportive, and inspiring. She has produced outstanding students at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Their singing is not only technically assured but also marked by deep understanding of poetic content and expert declamation of foreign languages. To further prepare our future teachers, Professor Herseth has developed a vocal pedagogy class that is extraordinarily successful; it is a master's-level course that has expanded from one semester to two. Her devoted teaching has earned the respect and admiration of her students. Professor Herseth is listed among the *Who's Who Among American Teachers*, a national honor initiated by her students. As chair of the Voice Department,

Professor Herseth cultivates a site of learning and artistic fulfillment. She keeps the department's priorities clear—whatever is best for our students. In 2006, Professor Herseth's superior teaching skills were recognized by nomination for the Distinguished Teacher in the Arts Award from The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Additionally, in 2005 the University of Michigan awarded her an Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship, and the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts presented her with a Teacher Recognition Certificate.

Professional Activities: Prior to her arrival at the University of Michigan, Professor Herseth had established an eminent career in opera, both in the United States and in Germany. She is a consummate and conscientious performer with the extraordinary ability to perform in 17 languages (she is fluent in five). Professor Herseth's curriculum vitae teems with creative activity. She lists numerous recordings and broadcasts, notable performances, master classes, adjudication at significant competitions, guest lecturers, several publications, and presentations at local, national, and international levels. For a number of years, Professor Herseth coordinated (and taught in) the highly popular summer vocal studies program at Sesto Fiorentino (near Florence). In 2002, Professor Herseth co-directed and co-authored a video publication, *The Living Voice: A Vocal Pedagogy Education Video*, which is geared towards students, voice teachers, and public school teachers and is used nationwide.

Service: An exceptionally active colleague, Professor Herseth provides an unusually high level of service at many levels. For the department, she has served on the DMA curriculum committee, as a DMA advisor, and as the chair and co-chair (and that for six years). For the School, she has served on the Scholarship Committee, the Faculty Council on Graduate Studies, numerous faculty search committees (in several departments), and the School's Executive Committee. Professor Herseth has also contributed notable service to the University of Michigan, including her participation with a new initiative organized by the Center for Educational Outreach to promote access to higher education for under-served youth across Michigan. Additionally, she has served on the Provost's Online Evaluation Steering Committee, the board of the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, the Arthur F. Thurnau Selection Committee, the Honors Convocation Platform Party, and the Undergraduate Council. She has chaired the University Relations Committee of SACUA.

Over and above these laudable activities, Professor Herseth's service for the Vocal Health Center is perhaps the most inspiring and poignant. Established in 1996, the University of Michigan Vocal Health Center is recognized regionally and nationally as a leading institution for the treatment and prevention of voice disorders. In conjunction with medical faculty and staff at the Center, Professor Herseth provides direct patient care in the rehabilitation of injured voices.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "When it comes to evaluating Freda Herseth, I can only write in superlatives. She is a consummate musician as a singer, interpreter, and teacher...you have a musical treasure at your school and will be served by her with excellence for many years to come."

Reviewer B: "From hearing Freda's students, I know that she successfully instilled in them an excitement for music as an act of pure communication. Also, I perceive that as a teacher, Freda

nurtures talent and draws the best voice she can from each singer; she hears potential and works to bring it to its own finest level.”

Reviewer C: “There are many terrific musicians in this country—but only a minority that give of themselves in so many other ways such as educational outreach, research on learning and teaching, hostess to outside guests, and other notable services.”

Reviewer D: “She is a natural teacher, and the students were filled with admiration and real affection for her. I can only imagine that her teaching at Ann Arbor is of the highest quality. She is a musical and personal gem, and the School of Music is extremely fortunate to have her on its faculty.”

Reviewer E: “Professor Herseth has made contributions to the state, national, and international music communities through her publications on pedagogy, service as an adjudicator and external evaluator, participation in conferences, master classes, and guest lecturers. Her video publication, *The Living Voice: A Vocal Pedagogy Educational Video*, is a substantial contribution, as is her work as a voice training specialist at the Vocal Health Center in the University of Michigan Health System.”

Reviewer F: “Also unusual among teachers of singing is the depth of Freda’s knowledge about the science of the singing voice and then applying that science to studio pedagogy. How fortunate you are to have someone of your faculty who is actively engaged in research and writing AND performing.”

Reviewer G: “Perhaps even more of a testament to her teaching is the list of her former students who are on faculty at notable institutions. She has developed a legacy of excellence, which her students are perpetuating as they significantly impact our field. It is clear that she is a masterful teacher who is deeply invested in her work and in the lives of her students, who make steady and in many cases, dramatic improvement.”

Reviewer H: “Besides her duties at the University, she has managed to bring her gifts to the outside world. Her many concerts, judging duties, and master classes are a great testimony to her fortitude. It is also a compliment to the University of Michigan that she is supported in these endeavors. She is a consummate performer, successful and caring teacher, and has remained active in all aspects of her teaching career.”

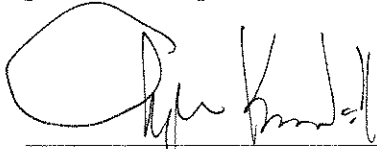
Reviewer I: “I believe Freda Herseth is an outstanding and ideal candidate for promotion to Professor. The breadth and depth of her professional and creativity activity, her excellence in teaching, and her service to the University and community not only indicate a high level of professional achievement, but also demonstrates her potential for continued growth and development.”

Reviewer J: “Herseth is an accomplished performer with a proven track record at both the national and international level. She continues to expand her already impressive repertoire that covers a wide variety of styles and periods. She has performed in world class venues with top conductors and stage directors. She has demonstrated success, both in the studio and in the

classroom, teaching a wide variety of courses. Her service to the university and her profession is extensive and distinguished, already at the level of a senior faculty member.”

Internal Reviewers: Professor Herseth has received strong and universal support from her colleagues for her promotion to the rank of professor of music. Collectively, they have spoken to her strengths as a student advocate, her excellence in teaching, and her ability to provide wise and measured responses to delicate and complex problems. The School’s Executive Committee has acknowledged Professor Herseth’s value and numerous contributions to the department, the School, and the University.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Herseth is an inspiring and motivating teacher. She has enjoyed the success as an international opera performer and brings this experience to the classroom. Her rendering of service is boundless, and has been appreciated by students, colleagues, and patients alike. It is with great enthusiasm and the unanimous support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Freda A. Herseth for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

May 2012