

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

Ellen H. Rowe, 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:

M.M. 1982 University of Rochester, Eastman School of Music
B.M. (with high distinction) 1980 University of Rochester, Eastman School of Music

Professional Record:

1996 - present Associate Professor of Music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance,
University of Michigan
1993 - 1996 Associate Professor of Jazz Studies and Director of Jazz Studies,
University of Connecticut
1984 - 1993 Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies and Director of Jazz Studies,
University of Connecticut

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Rowe is a highly regarded educator, composer-arranger, conductor, and jazz pedagogue with a national and international profile. The extent of her all-state ensembles conducting, as well as her teaching and conducting internationally in Europe, South Africa and Canada, place her at the top of the profession in terms of teaching. She contributes actively to the School's community engagement efforts, touring with various student ensembles to high schools, to Detroit and to professional venues around the nation. These outreach activities have enabled recruitment of some of the strongest students in the department. She teaches a wide spectrum of courses including private students, improvisation, and jazz keyboard. The outstanding talent of her students is recognized in national broadcasts of their performances on the NPR "Jazz Set" broadcasts. Professor Rowe consistently receives positive ratings and accolades from her students and ensembles. She takes a genuine interest in her students' education and follows their career paths attentively; the range of her students' accomplishments is exceptional.

Professional Activities: Professor Rowe has sustained high levels of accomplishment as a performer, composer-arranger, and conductor, across a wide range of jazz genres. She has performed at clubs and on concert series throughout the U.S., as well as in Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Ireland, Poland, and Australia. Also active as a clinician, she has given workshops and master classes at the Melbourne Conservatory, Hochschule für Musik in Cologne, and the Royal Academy of Music in London, in addition to many appearances as a guest artist at festivals and universities around the country. Professor Rowe's compositions and arrangements have been performed and recorded by jazz ensembles and orchestras around the world, including the Village Vanguard Orchestra, BBC Jazz Orchestra, U.S. Navy Commodores, Berlin and NDR

Radio Jazz Orchestras, London Symphony, DIVA, the Perth Jazz Orchestra, Dave Liebman Big Band, and Bergen Big Band (Norway). One of the world's most respected publishers of jazz, Sierra Music Publications, continues to publish her arrangements for junior high and high school ensembles. Professor Rowe's CV lists an impressive number of recordings and publications, and the most recent CD, *Wishing Well*, has received many positive reviews. She is currently working on a new recording project with her colleague Andrew Bishop.

Service: Professor Rowe has accumulated an astounding record of service for the department, the school, the university, and the profession. She has served as chair of the Department of Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation since 2007. In her role as chair, one of her most treasured accomplishments was the establishment of a new degree track, Jazz Studies with Teacher Certification. She has successfully navigated the department through a period of growth in both quality and breadth. As the undergraduate jazz coordinator, she advised the majority of undergraduate majors for over a decade. Her other service to the School is noteworthy; she has served multiple, three-year terms on the school's Executive Committee. Additionally, she has served as a member of numerous faculty searches, and completed a four-year term on the school's Scholarship Committee. With respect to university service, Professor Rowe completed a three-year term on the university's MHealthy Committee (to which she brings particular insight as an experienced marathon runner), and strives to uphold the university's outreach commitment to the city of Detroit. She personally oversees a project that sends several faculty and students to the Duke Ellington School for the Arts, a K–8 school in central Detroit. Additionally, she is working on a partnership with the Carr Center, a vibrant arts institution in downtown Detroit. Her service to the profession is also most evident in her continuing involvement with the Jazz Education Network; she was active in the International Association for Jazz Education (deactivated several years ago and now the Jazz Educators Network). Professor Rowe is also active in local jazz and arts organizations, such as the Southeastern Michigan Jazz Alliance, Kerrytown Concert House, where her impromptu lectures on the jazz forms she performs are celebrated and appreciated by audiences, the University Musical Society, Detroit Jazz Festival, and WEMU, our local jazz radio station, where she routinely does on-air fundraising.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Her talent as a jazz pianist is superb and is respected on a national level. Professor Rowe is also sought after as a composer of both professional and student level music. She has received numerous commissions and has had works published by respected publishers. She has made the jazz program at the University of Michigan into more than a model of musical excellence."

Reviewer B: "Her playing is at the highest level, and she surrounds herself with internationally known players, interacting and leading them to create beautiful music that sets the standards for her talented students. Her own student's musical level is known nationally, as demonstrated by their NPR 'Jazz Set' broadcasts."

Reviewer C: "She is held in very high regard among jazz musicians and in the field of jazz education. Her creative output is of the highest quality and her experience, achievement and leadership in the field of jazz education are outstanding."

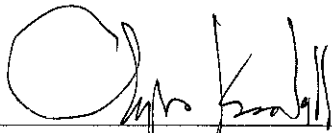
Reviewer D: "Professor Rowe has a sustained record of high levels of achievement as both a performer and a composer-arranger. Professor Rowe has established an international reputation as a very fine writer, on a parallel with the nation's leading jazz composer-educators. In the area of teaching, it is apparent that Professor Rowe is a highly regarded educator with a national and international profile. Additionally, she serves the community and the jazz education profession through a variety of musical and non-musical initiatives."

Reviewer E: "The extent and breadth of Professor Rowe's professional/creative activity is impressive. It's clear Professor Rowe has invested a great deal of energy in service to the University as well as the profession and community. I find her to be a highly accomplished and significant artist, an effective and dedicated teacher, and a thoughtful, visible leader."

Reviewer F: "She plays at a VERY high level and deservedly enjoys a fine reputation as a performer in the international jazz community as is evident by the number and quality of her performances. Ellen Rowe's record of research, teaching, and service to your institution, the region, and to the art form of jazz shows a faculty member deeply committed to the well-being of her community."

Internal Reviewers: Professor Rowe is a trusted, valued and highly regarded colleague among the faculty at large. She has a deep interest in and thoughtful approach with her colleagues, the students, and the staff. Her artistic talents are well known and she is routinely contacted to participate in a large number of initiatives and projects. Her enviable service record is a constant reminder of what it means to be involved in your career and your community; she is a truly inspiring, artistic and considerate individual.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Rowe's career exemplifies the versatility and extraordinary skill required for success in any of the arts, and in distinctive ways in the jazz field. She is a national and international performer, composer-arranger, conductor, and gifted teacher. She has a proven track record of leadership and administrative ability, and is a principled and valuable colleague. It is with great enthusiasm and the unanimous support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Ellen H. Rowe 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

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