

Approved by the
Regents
May 21, 2015

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Carmen Pelton, associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Voice, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Voice, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Performers Certificate	1980	Eastman School of Music
B.M.	1977	University of Wisconsin

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Associate Professor of Music, University of Michigan
2000 – 2001	Associate Professor of Voice, University of Washington
1994 – 1999	Assistant Professor of Voice, University of Washington
1992 – 1994	Artist-in-Residence, University of Washington
1989 – 1990	Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice, Eastman School of Music
1987 – 1989	Instructor of Voice, Lehigh University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Pelton has been described as a master teacher. She works with all types of voices, and she places a particular focus on physical and psychological disposition as major factors in effective vocal performance. Professor Pelton's pedagogical expertise stretches beyond traditional methodologies, which tend to emphasize anatomy and vocal function. Thus, for example, she has received advanced training in Dalcroze Eurythmics, which highlight physical movement as a way of instructing students in concepts including rhythm, structure, and musical expression. Professor Pelton has developed an inclusive and collegial approach to her work with students, such that she is frequently involved in team teaching or jointly-run studio classes. She is notably equipped through her own experience and expertise to work with students in the challenging and important repertoire of contemporary music for voice. Student evaluations are uniformly positive, indicating, among other things, that students find their time under Professor Pelton's guidance to be an enriching intellectual and artistic experience. Accordingly, her students have been particularly successful at winning competitions and receiving awards. Professor Pelton's teaching activities extend beyond the realm of the university, as evidenced by the regularity with which she presents master classes at institutions elsewhere around the country. At the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, her success in this arena was recognized in 2008 through conferral of the Harold Haugh Award for Excellence in Studio Teaching.

Creative Activities: Professor Pelton has enjoyed an illustrious and highly respected performing career. Early in her career, she attracted international attention at the celebrated Aldeburgh Music Festival in England, where she debuted in the lead soprano role of Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. Since that time, she has added to her extensive operatic repertoire music from across a wide range of genres and stylistic periods, and has developed a national profile as a leading interpreter of oratorio, art song, and vocal chamber music. She is also among the rare singers who have the musical and intellectual skills and exceptional technique to take on contemporary music for voice, which she has premiered, performed and recorded extensively in her career. For over a decade, Professor Pelton was on the faculty at the Brevard and Aspen Music Festivals and was a featured performer at both of these highly visible summer festivals. In addition, she has been a featured

performer on two Grammy Award winning albums: the 2004 Naxos recording of William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, which garnered four Grammys, including for Best Classical Album and Best Choral Performance; and the Telarc release of 1998 featuring Samuel Barber's *Prayers of Kierkegaard*, which received three Grammy Awards, including one for Best Classical Album. Professor Pelton currently performs several times a year in solo and chamber recitals at the University of Michigan. She is also a frequent soloist with the University Symphony Orchestra and maintains an active role performing in Faculty Showcase Concerts. In September 2014, Professor Pelton returned to Carnegie Hall to premiere a new work written for her by composer Steven Sametz.

Service: Professor Pelton's record of service includes a host of activities ranging from performance and adjudication at national organizations to membership on important committees at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. She has served on the school's Council of Departmental Representatives, Scholarship Committee, and Faculty Council on Graduate Studies. She has also been a member of and has chaired faculty search committees for the Departments of Voice, Music Education, and Strings. Since 2010, Professor Pelton has supervised graduate student instructors in the Department of Voice, and she also completed a stint as interim department chair, stepping in to replace a faculty colleague on leave. In 2013–14, she was a faculty marshall at the university's Honors Commencement. In addition to her university service, Professor Pelton has presented master classes and judged singing competitions at the Classical Singer National Convention, and she maintains active memberships in the American Guild of Musical Artists, the Actors Equity Association, and the Dalcroze Society of America.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Carmen is regarded as an expert in the field of oratorio—an authority who also possesses a stunning voice full of energy, character, and beauty. Carmen's long career is full of great performances throughout the United States; she demonstrates high artistic impact not only on her peers but also on her colleagues and students."

Reviewer B: "Ms. Pelton is highly sensitized to the need for young singers to have meaningful and frequent opportunities to perform and thus manage the shifts in effort and concentration that occur only when on stage. Ms. Pelton imparts her treasured knowledge creatively, targeting with accuracy the precise needs of her students; she is a master teacher."

Reviewer C: "Professor Pelton's national reputation, dedication to the teaching profession, continuing performance experience and teaching successes, and tireless pursuit of excellence in the art of *bel canto*, establish her as an outstanding teacher of singing, performer, and faculty member."

Reviewer D: "It is clear that Professor Pelton has established and maintains an extremely high standard of musical performance in the fields of opera and art song. Her resume speaks to the quality and prestige of her performing career, with ample experience doing major operatic roles with major opera houses throughout the world."

Reviewer E: "Carmen Pelton serves as a vocal and professional role model for her students. Her ongoing performances, research, performance preparation and exploration of resources reveal her curiosity and creativity. As validation of her sound pedagogy, her singing voice remains an expressive instrument. Given her love of music, enthusiasm and knowledge, she will continue to imbue up-and-coming young singers and teachers with the qualities necessary for success."

Reviewer F: “There are many teachers of voice who may have had exemplary careers as performers, but who teach largely ‘do as I do’ when it comes to technique. Carmen has taken her vast repertoire and performing experience and learned how to systematically articulate the how and why of singing technique for her students—and makes technique the servant of the music.”

Reviewer G: “Her teaching is outstanding, her performing world-class, and her service to the profession excellent. She is well-known in many areas of classical music, and has performed with the very best musicians; from conductors, to world-class instrumentalists, top quality orchestras, opera companies, and fellow singers.”

Reviewer H: “She is an outstanding and versatile concert singer with a wide vocal range, even and flexible throughout. She is an artist in the top echelon. Her teaching is wide in scope, as well as innovative; her experience and knowledge of the métier are vast; and her beautiful singing and consummate artistry are superb, making her truly an expert in her field.”

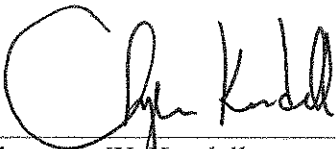
Reviewer I: “I truly enjoyed the examples of her performances and in several cases listened to a song a second time just for the pleasure. Her statement on applying the knowledge she has acquired to her studio and classroom teaching demonstrate a thoughtful approach to her teaching. Professor Pelton’s dedication to making a complete performer is refreshing.”

Internal Review:

An invaluable and respected colleague, Professor Pelton balances excellent teaching with an impressive schedule of public performance and solid service to the department. Her vocal abilities are robust, full of character and beauty. She is a knowledgeable and creative teacher who consistently maintains a full studio. She is collaborative and collegial, and places the well-being and education of our students above all.

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Pelton is a skillful and creative teacher, as well as an active and acclaimed performer in the areas of opera, oratorio, art song, and chamber music—a rare talent indeed. She is a treasured colleague who generously shares her expertise and skills throughout the academic community. It is with great enthusiasm and with the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Carmen Pelton for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Voice, 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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