

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

Adam Unsworth, associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Winds and Percussion, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Winds and Percussion, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

M.M. 1994 University of Wisconsin-Madison  
B.M. 1991 Northwestern University

Professional Record:

2012 – 2014 Chair, Department of Winds and Percussion, University of Michigan  
2007 – present Associate Professor of Music, University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance  
1999 – 2007 Adjunct Faculty, Coordinator of Brass Repertoire, Temple University  
1998 – 2007 Fourth Horn, The Philadelphia Orchestra  
1995 – 1998 Second Horn, Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Since Professor Unsworth's arrival at Michigan, the quality of both undergraduate and graduate students in French horn has steadily increased, making this studio one of the most high-performing—and most coveted—in the school. Affirming the sentiment of external reviewers, this studio has now achieved a national reputation of excellence and success. Professor Unsworth's orchestral background is a magnet for recruitment, with students feeling assured that they will receive the highest level of training in both chamber and large-ensemble performance. Professor Unsworth's skills as a jazz performer and composer also attract non-traditional students whose skills are broader in nature and whose artistry is more inclusive. Professor Unsworth typically teaches beyond what we consider a full studio load. His teaching success and methodologies are exceptional; he places special emphasis on students receiving a broad liberal arts education and finding the proper balance between that and the sort of conservatory training that we provide. Professor Unsworth sets high expectations for his students, yet remains friendly and helpful. The improvement of his students is profound. He is an advocate even beyond graduation, and many of his former students have won prizes and obtained highly visible performing and teaching positions. Student feedback is consistently high, with students repeatedly saying that Professor Unsworth is an exemplary role model and knowledgeable teacher who can not only prepare them for success but who also has the power to inspire.

Professional Activities: Professor Unsworth was trained at the hands of some of the best musicians in his field, including former Chicago Symphony members Norman Schweikert and Gail Williams at Northwestern. He met with success early in his career, winning coveted positions in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and later the Philadelphia Orchestra, which is considered one of the top orchestras worldwide. Professor Unsworth's technical and musical

abilities are of the highest caliber, and his command of his instrument is truly inspirational. Easily one of the finest horn players in the United States and perhaps even the world, he continues to give guest recitals, masterclasses, and performances at conferences, workshops, and educational institutions across the globe. Unusual for someone of this caliber, he is equally accomplished in the domains of both classical and jazz. Professor Unsworth has been featured on numerous recordings, including a Grammy-award-winning release and three Grammy-nominated jazz albums. He has also authored several journal articles related to his field of endeavor.

Service: Professor Unsworth has provided valuable service to the university and to his profession. Within the school, he has served on numerous faculty search committees, helped reorganize the chamber music program, and has frequently served on dissertation committees. He has also been a member of the school's Scholarship Committee and chaired the Department of Winds and Percussion for a two-year period. In 2014, he was elected to serve on the Provost's Faculty Advisory Committee. In addition, Professor Unsworth founded and organized a successful concert series known as Jazz@UMMA. Finally, he is an active member of the International Horn Society, through which he makes guest appearances, gives masterclasses, and performs recitals.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Professor Unsworth has an incredibly long list of significant international, national and regional presentations and performances. His studio has a national reputation of excellence that brings welcome recognition to the University of Michigan. Professor Unsworth's students have gone on to win numerous prizes, significant performance jobs and teaching positions. There is no doubt that he is one of the finest horn performers in the United States."

Reviewer B: "He is world class already, and will no doubt grow in stature and achievement over the coming years. I would judge him to be a leader of national/international standing as concert artist and teacher. As a crossover classical/jazz artist of major accomplishments, it could be argued that he stands almost alone at the top of the heap."

Reviewer C: "Professor Unsworth maintains a remarkably active performance calendar on and off campus. His recordings have received great acclaim, he has been part of Grammy winning and nominated jazz recordings, and he has written journal articles. Professor Unsworth's creative activities are of the highest order in every regard."

Reviewer D: "It is very clear that he has built an outstanding program that is on par with the finest institutions in the country. In the areas of research and teaching, his work is clearly superior. Receiving a Grammy certainly helps to solidify his position as one of the truly superior artist/teachers at any institution."

Reviewer E: "He has produced a large number of high quality recordings which testify to his truly virtuosic facility on the horn and his exceptional proficiency in many styles and genres. Students graduating from his studio have had a healthy success rate in finding gainful employment in the profession. From coaching basketball for youth, to serving as chair of the Winds and Percussion Department, to organizing a jazz series at the UM Museum of Art,

Professor Unsworth has demonstrated a readiness to serve the University and the community on very demanding projects.”

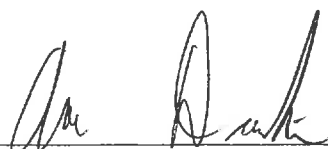
Reviewer F: “Since he has been at Michigan, his solo, chamber music and jazz profile has significantly increased. He is such a positive role model because he has explored (and continues to explore) the variety of what it means to be a horn player at the highest level, and continues to challenge himself. His enthusiasm and curiosity also are evident in everything he does, and so one would only expect his career to continue to flourish.”

Reviewer G: “The list of Professor Unsworth’s performances, guest masterclasses, articles, and recordings demonstrate a high level of visibility in the horn world, both nationally and internationally. He has gained a fine reputation both as a performer and as a teacher.”

Reviewer H: “Adam is one of the most widely respected professional hornists in the world today. His combined work as a performer, composer, and noted pedagogue represents an outstanding balance that serves both him and his students very effectively. He has an outstanding and well known reputation, and is unquestionably a leader in his peer group on a national and international basis.”

Reviewer I: “Professor Unsworth has definitely established himself at the national level. His beautiful sound grabs your attention, his engaging phrasing holds it, and his amazing technique blows you away, contributing to his outstanding reputation as one of the most versatile and interesting horn players around.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Unsworth continues to impress and inspire. He is a knowledgeable and successful teacher, an extraordinary musician, and someone who is committed to providing a high level of service to the university and to the community. Professor Unsworth is an exemplary and valued member of our faculty and we consider ourselves fortunate to have him as a colleague. It is with great enthusiasm and with the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Adam Unsworth for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Winds and Percussion, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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Aaron P. Dworkin, Dean  
Paul Boylan Collegiate Professor of Music  
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

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