

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

David Halen, professor of music, without tenure, Department of Strings, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

M.M.	1983	University Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
B.M.	1979	University of Central Missouri

Professional Record:

2012 - present	Professor of Music, University of Michigan
2007 - present	Visiting Distinguished Artist, McDuffie Center for Strings, Mercer University
1995 - present	Concertmaster, St. Louis Symphony
1991 - 1995	Associate Concertmaster, St. Louis Symphony
1983 - 1991	Assistant Concertmaster, St. Louis Symphony
1983 - present	Violinist with Harrington String Quartet, Amarillo, Texas

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Halen exhibits a distinctive combination of authority, musicianship, experience and humanity. He is universally respected not just as a fine performer, but as a teacher and mentor for developing artists. His position teaching at the Aspen Music Festival each summer exposes a large number of prospective students and young professional string players to his qualities and makes him a sought-after teacher. Since his arrival at Michigan, student enrollments have steadily risen to what we consider a studio overflow situation. It is just not the high number of student recruits that are impressive, but the caliber of students as well. Professor Halen's students consistently earn major professional positions in prestigious orchestras around the country. His continued presence as concertmaster of the St. Louis Symphony also helps the school's reputation as being one of the leading centers for violin pedagogy in the country. Students describe Professor Halen as one of the best violin teachers and mentors in the country; they also speak to his ability to instill confidence and help them develop professionally. Rarely have we found anyone more committed to the success of their students, and who is continually inspiring, supportive and interested in their artistic endeavors and ambitions.

Professional Activities: Professor Halen's professional career has included titled positions with the Houston Symphony under Christoph Eschenbach, and he has served as concertmaster for the St. Louis Symphony under the renowned music directors Leonard Slatkin, the late Hans Vonk and David Robertson. He has appeared extensively as a soloist with the St. Louis Symphony and the Houston, San Francisco, and West German Radio (Cologne) symphonies. Since 2002,



Professor Halen has served as a member of the violin faculty and concertmaster of the Aspen Music Festival. He is a visiting artist at Yale University, the artistic director of the Innsbrook Institute, and a distinguished visiting artist of the McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University. The benefits of Professor Halen's continued appointment as concertmaster of a major American orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony, are profound in that he maintains professional authority with some of the finest musicians in the country and is able to recruit extremely talented students to the university.

Service: Since his arrival at Michigan, Professor Halen has provided invaluable service in the areas of faculty recruitment, and with participation on numerous DMA committees within his department. Within his profession, he has served on numerous audition and search committees for the St. Louis Symphony, and has coordinated music performances at fund raising events for the Aspen Music Festival. From 2010 through 2013, Professor Halen was appointed by Governor Matt Blunt to the Missouri Arts Council.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Halen's playing is of consistently high level and very importantly the student players who work with him receive remarkable insights into the music, style, and technical knowledge that is part and parcel of their education. David's awareness of the balance between student's personal and educational needs is a model of clarity; practice spaces and times must be available, but also time to learn from life and experience. He teaches the whole student."

Reviewer B: "David is extremely well known in the concertmaster, music, chamber music and teaching community. He has a very high profile as one of the finest concertmasters in the country with an impeccable reputation. His dossier of musical and academic accomplishments, his service to the many organizations he represents, his impressive playing and experience all add up to a candidate with the necessary gravitas to attract excellent students and maintain a high profile in our industry."

Reviewer C: "I know him to be technically accomplished as a violinist, having a firm and consistent tone, secure intonation and an ability to blend and adjust in his musical interaction in various ensembles. His history as concertmaster of two major orchestras speaks for itself, and his evident ability to recruit violinists to Michigan, and to place them in orchestral positions is invaluable."

Reviewer D: "It is clear to me that David is a most astounding teacher and leader of young people. His artistry, experience and pedagogical gifts allow David to demonstrate and explain the most important and sophisticated musical ideas. The students in the sections that he guides uniformly adore him and admire his great work."

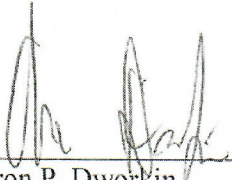
Reviewer E: "Mr. Halen is an artist of the highest caliber - a virtuoso concertmaster and violinist, a stunning chamber musician, a thoughtful interpreter of a wide range of musical styles, a passionate performer and a dedicated teacher and mentor. His demeanor is exceedingly positive at all times and both his enthusiasm and work ethic are inspiring. This combination is a rare gift in our industry and makes David Halen both an extraordinary colleague and a shining example for professionals and students alike."

Reviewer F: “Mr. Halen is clearly one of the most qualified and accomplished faculty members any music school could hope to have. Having worked with esteemed conductors and soloists, having guided the orchestra's level of musicianship through work on search committees and his leadership as a performer, Mr. Halen offers your school what very few people can. The fact that he has contributed so much at your school in his time there is remarkable given how busy he is, though not surprising considering his track record.”

Reviewer G: “His reputation as a concertmaster of a major orchestra, chamber musician and teacher is recognized throughout the world. Over the years my students have studied with him at Aspen with consistently positive feedback. His years of experience in the many different music venues allows him to bring this vast knowledge to his teaching. Not every concertmaster is or can become a fine teacher, but David has easily made a bridge between these worlds.”

Internal Review: Professor Halen has been described as the musician's musician. He is collegial, professional and seems always at the ready to extend his artistic leadership or musical talents. There is universal acknowledgement of his success with student recruitment, as well as the success his students enjoy following their time at Michigan. He is described as collaborative and artistically brilliant. Professor Halen is a valued and treasured member of our faculty, and we enthusiastically look forward to his continued contributions to our school and the university.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Halen is one of a very few musicians capable of attracting students in violin at the highest level. His presence is essential for our school to retain our ranking and reputation at the top of the field. He is a wonderful colleague, teacher and artist and we are extremely fortunate to have him on our faculty. It with great enthusiasm and with the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend David Halen for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of professor of music, Department of Strings, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

May 2017