

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

Christopher T. Harding, associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Piano, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

A.D.	1998	Indiana University (Artist Diploma)
M.M.	1995	Indiana University, Piano Performance with Performer's Certificate
B.M.	1992	Eastman School of Music, Piano Performance with Performer's Certificate

Professional Record:

2010-present	Associate Professor of Music, Department of Music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
2004-2010	Assistant Professor, Department of Piano, University of Michigan
1999-2004	Assistant Professor of Piano and Director of Keyboard Studies and Chamber Music, Brevard College
1997-1999	Visiting Lecturer in Piano, Indiana University
1994-1997	Instructor, Indiana University Piano Academy
1996-1997	Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music, DePauw University
1995-1997	Instructor of Piano Majors, Indiana University
1993-1997	Faculty Member, Young Pianists Program, Indiana University
1992-1994	Associate Instructor in Piano, Indiana University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Harding is a devoted, generous and enthusiastic teacher. He sets high standards for his students and the responses he elicits from them are profound. Student evaluations not only reference respect and admiration for him as a teacher, but also gratitude for his mentorship and professional collegiality that they retain in their careers. Professor Harding is unique in that his enthusiasm for teaching extends to colleagues as well, as he seeks to find innovative ways to elevate the pedagogical and artistic level of the department. He has been a leader in bringing piano students to the community through establishing relationships creating audiences for students to perform. Professor Harding has diligently worked to establish a very successful studio; his students are some of the very best in our school often taking top awards at various competitions. He is an excellent recruiter of extremely gifted international students and is thought to be one of the most successful recruiters in our school. In 2015, the school recognized Professor Harding with the Harold Haugh Award for Excellence in Studio Teaching.

Professional Activities: Professor Harding continues to elevate the number and significance of his professional accomplishments. His solo, lecture-recitals, chamber and concerto performances, and radio broadcasts in the United States, Israel, and especially throughout Asia

have grown exponentially. He has produced several recordings and publications, and he has been quite successful in obtaining funding to support these endeavors. In September 2016, he was awarded a grant from the University of Michigan to record several chamber works for the launch of a new YouTube channel, coinciding with the development of a new professional website. He has continued his activities as a Fulbright Senior Specialist, and this has helped provide more opportunities to establish international relationships by giving masterclasses, lecture-recitals, and piano performances for diplomatic communities and universities in many cities throughout Asia.

Service: Professor Harding's service level is universally considered one of the highest in the school. His affinity for service and administration was noted early in his career and this has not diminished with time or advancement. Professor Harding has provided exemplary service for the school most notably as the chair of the piano department since 2011, interim chair of the department of chamber music from 2015-2016, a member of ten faculty search committees, and currently a member of the school's Council of Departmental Representatives as well as the Curriculum Committee at Brevard College. His service to the profession extends to membership with the Music Teachers National Association, the American Matthey Association, and the College Music Society. Since 1999, Professor Harding has offered lecturing, teaching and performing services to the U.S. State Department in many countries that he visits on tour. This has led to multiple masterclasses, lecture recitals, and performances for international diplomatic communities and Universities/Conservatories of Music in Tokyo and Seoul (as well as other parts of Korea), Taipei and other parts of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, and Chongqing.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "This is a monumental and extraordinary picture of one of the most significant contributors to the quality of music in our field today. His recordings demonstrate the range of his musical interests. His administrative life reveals his intense desire to improve any situation he finds himself in. I am fascinated by his becoming department chair, a position where he can weave his magic and generate positive energy for the University of Michigan."

Reviewer B: "His accomplishments in the areas of performing, recording, teaching, scholarship and administration are vast and remarkable. Harding's playing is penetrating, technically immaculate and deeply musical. Harding's student evaluations are remarkably high and I found his teaching statement compelling and sincere, particularly his commitment to all of his students across the spectrum of natural gifts."

Reviewer C: "Professor Harding is extremely well rounded. His volumes of pieces for the less advanced player are excellent. When I listened to his recordings of the works he edited, I was astounded—what an incredible player! He is definitely an artist-faculty member; these are some of the best recordings I've heard of these pieces!"

Reviewer D: "Harding's dossier presents a strong profile as a performer. He has a pattern of sustained performance activity both in national and international venues. His teaching is organized, rigorous, and insightful, and the list of student accomplishments summarizes a significant number of solid achievements."

Reviewer E: "Professor Harding's professional experience is very impressive, and clearly confirms his national and international stature as a musician and teacher. His career as a performing artist, combined with his strong educational background, and administrative abilities, has enabled him to carve out a distinctive an individual niche in our extraordinarily competitive and demanding profession. Professor Harding is a person of musical artistry, personal integrity, keen intellect, outstanding organizational skills and a strong potential for leadership. He is respected by both students and colleagues."

Reviewer F: "Harding maintains a highly active career as a performer, including numerous important national and international venues. His list of guest teaching and master classes, as well as lecture recitals, shows that he is well regarded nationally and internationally as a teacher. His students' accomplishments over the years are also impressive and at a high level."

Reviewer G: "Harding has a well-deserved reputation as a teacher who attracts some of the best piano students anywhere in the United States. I personally view him as being among the most successful and most highly regarded piano professors anywhere in the country. In reviewing the accomplishments of Professor Harding's students, one is presented with a record of consistent teaching at the highest level."

Reviewer H: "Harding's long list of high-level awards and honors achieved by his diverse and varied studio is most impressive. Additionally, impressive is his record of service and accomplishments as chair of the piano department, committee member, and adjudicator. His recorded performances are unfailingly accomplished and of remarkable caliber. I marvel at such a degree of excellence and consistency in all areas of his professional endeavors."

Reviewer I: "He has a distinguished teacher record, having won the teaching prize, as well as many student successes. Additionally, he has established himself as a pedagogue internationally. His record of service is exemplary to say the least."


Reviewer J: "I have always considered him a most distinguished, world-class musician in every respect. His repertoire is vast, his performances are nothing short of enlightening, and he has the intellectual grasp of his art which can only be described as thrilling. He strikes me as ideally suited for the administrative dimension of his duties at Michigan; he is balanced, mature, sympathetic and politically astute; above all, he has vision. Additionally, he has leadership, initiative, and a deep sense of duty to the profession."

Reviewer K: "I have known of Prof. Harding's abilities as a teacher for many years; he has a sterling reputation. I have had numerous occasions to hear his students in recitals, in auditions, in master classes, who have given performances that bespeak diligent preparation and excellent mentoring. I have heard only the most effusive praise for Harding's effectiveness and generosity as a teacher. There is no doubt that Prof. Harding has provided, and continues to provide, valuable service to the University of Michigan."

Internal Review: Professor Harding is a valuable, respected and resourceful colleague. His colleagues consider him to be a polished and superb artist, as well as a top recruiter of talented

students. It is well known that Professor Harding's students perform extremely well in numerous competitions and this speaks to his success in the studio. Professor Harding continues to provide meaningful service to the department, the school, the university and to the profession. He is well liked and supported school-wide as an artist, teacher, and as an effective and fair-minded administrator.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Harding is an accomplished artist, successful teacher and gifted leader. He has developed a rich record of professional achievements, as well as an international reputation that has served the school and the university well. It is with great enthusiasm and with the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Christopher T. Harding for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody L. Racine". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Melody L. Racine

Interim Dean

School of Music, Theatre & Dance

May 2018