

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

Joseph A. Gascho, assistant professor of music, Department of Organ, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Organ, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

D.M.A.	2011	The University of Maryland
M.M.	2001	The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University
B.A.	1995	Eastern Mennonite University

Professional Record:

2014 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Organ, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
2015 – 2017	Faculty, Basso Continuo and Chamber Music, Twin Cities Baroque Instrumental and Dance Program
2013 - 2014	Adjunct Faculty, Department of Performing Arts, Harpsichord, American University
2009 – present	Faculty, Basso Continuo, Chamber Music, and Orchestra, Oberlin Conservatory, Baroque Performance Institute
2005 - 2014	Adjunct Faculty, Department of Music, Harpsichord, The George Washington University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Gascho is an inspiring teacher who characteristically goes above and beyond to provide his students with artistic models and professional opportunities, who challenges his students to meet the highest artistic standard and the result is their demonstrable professional success. He supports his students as musicians, creative artists, and young professionals. He does this by creating numerous performance opportunities, challenging his students to expand their interpretive imaginations, and by connecting them to performers and performance opportunities outside of the university. He is able to translate his teaching across instrumental disciplines, and is adept at instructing not only keyboard, but strings and winds, as well. While Professor Gascho is himself a keyboard player, his gamba and baroque flute students have achieved extraordinary success and received scholarships and admission to prestigious graduate programs in Early Music. Professor Gascho is committed to developing a comprehensive Early Music Program at SMTD, and has a strong, if not extraordinary, track record of organizing successful performances, often in collaboration with other ensembles and academic areas at SMTD. Professor Gascho has produced extraordinary results, truly nothing short of the reinvigoration of early music as an area of study at SMTD. He has made Michigan a national and international presence in the field of historically-informed performance and research. The impact of his teaching, his willingness to offer extra coaching, and his artistic insights into early music performance for studio classes in other departments has had a broad and deep impact across our entire collaborative community.

Professional Activities: Professor Gascho is precisely the type of faculty member that defines the best of what SMTD is and must be into the future. He sustains a multi-faceted career as a historical performance specialist at the top levels of the profession. Professor Gascho is operating at the highest levels of the profession in three areas of research activity: performance, recording, and audio

production. As a solo and collaborative harpsichordist and organist, Professor Gascho artistic skills are affirmed by the range of national and international venues in which he is featured, as well as the artists with whom he performs and collaborates. Highlights include a solo recital in March 2019 for the Japan Harpsichord Society, as well as additional solo programs in Paris, Washington DC, and Berkeley, among others. Professor Gascho has also been featured as a concerto soloist with ensembles including the Washington Bach Consort, the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival, and the Grammy-nominated early music ensemble Apollo's Fire. He won First Prize in the 5th Irving and Mae Jurow International Harpsichord Competition in 2002, putting Professor Gascho on the roster of international solo performers, and he has sustained and expanded his reputation.

Service: Professor Gascho is a generous colleague who goes above and beyond to serve his students and the school, contributing to his own department, the artistic vitality of the university generally, and to a progressive and productive faculty governance. Professor Gascho has performed exemplary service for SMTD, as well as to external musical societies in his field. As a member of the school's Scholarship Committee and the Council of Departmental Representatives, he brings an engaged and thoughtful perspective to deliberations about our curriculum and faculty governance. His generosity of spirit and concern for students has been observed by colleagues across SMTD. He was a member of the carillon faculty search committee that successfully identified and recruited a faculty member to our campus, and he has given his time to our community engagement program, serving as a reviewer for our PEERS program. Professor Gascho was appointed to a task force charged with looking at SMTD's unique teaching and learning environment, with regard to inherent risks for sexual misconduct. Professor Gascho was an important voice in the conversation, and has become a fully engaged member of our community conversations about safety and well-being. He was recently appointed as the director of the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments because of his knowledge and experience, especially in incorporating the collection into the classroom experience.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Gascho appears to be a very energetic teacher, well prepared in all fields, enthusiastic about the subjects he teaches, willing to create a good environment for everyone, but also challenges students in order to improve their skills and knowledge. I also find it admirable are the different levels in which he operates - as a soloist, an accompanist, and also as a sound technician."

Reviewer B: "Gascho has clearly been an incredibly hardworking and committed member of the organ and wider music departments, very busy as a performer, and has taken on many service duties. The list of students who have worked with Dr. Gascho and have gone on to great success is very impressive. It is obvious that one could not find a more hardworking or engaged faculty colleague."

Reviewer C: "My impression of his work is that he is an excellent performer, a fine scholar, and an excellent teacher. His performance career is extremely impressive, collaborating with major artists in our field and creating all sorts of wonderful new projects and programs. It is clear that Gascho is in a position to lead the field in exciting ways in the years ahead."

Reviewer D: "His professional profile is quite impressive. He has a substantial record of performance as soloist, ensemble member and musical director across much of the United States and internationally; his concerts and master class activities in Japan are particularly noteworthy. He has a good record of supporting students with a variety of enriching pedagogical experiences. Gascho has built a significant career as a performer and researcher in the field of historical keyboard performance with broad impact in North America."

Reviewer E: “The dense number and exceptionally multi-faceted range of activities is outstanding: solo/collaborative work, conducting, ensemble direction/coaching, academic lecturing, and production. The extreme facility and porosity with which he navigates and inter-relates these dimensions of practice is exceptional. Very few artists in his peer group possess such a broad spectrum of skills, and the ability to synthesize each of these skills so coherently, and in so many permutations.”

Reviewer F: “He is an admirably well-rounded and complete musician, considering his solo, ensemble and conducting expertise; his attention to creative attributes in performance, such as improvisation, transcription and ornamentation; his skills in harpsichord building; and his activity as a recording producer. Compared to other professionals in our early keyboard field, he is a top academic role model, uniquely situated to provide his students with a desirable multifaceted approach and an education at the highest professional level.”

Reviewer G: “I had heard about Gascho for many years as a charismatic, generous, and inspiring teacher. I was happy to discover that he was in fact all that, as well as one of the best colleagues I’ve ever met. He is one of the only teachers in American preparing students at this level; all of his students have clearly received an excellent education. I’m very grateful he’s nurturing a generation of students who share his integrity, his passion, and his focus on excellence.”

Reviewer H: “Dr. Gascho possesses nationally recognized performance credentials, primarily as a harpsichordist, but also as a conductor and organist. The effectiveness of Dr. Gascho’s approach to teaching is borne out by the successes of his students; several have gone on to win prestigious competitions and acceptances into important music conservatories. Professor Gascho invests significantly in service to the University of Michigan, making an invaluable contribution to the school in a number of ways.”

Reviewer I: “He is firmly established as a major contributor to the field of early keyboard music through his own fine performances, recordings, teaching and leadership in professional circles. His professional profile is impressive, with appearances in Europe and Asia as well as through the U.S. His work at the University of Michigan shows initiative, passion for teaching, energy, and a capacity to evolve over time.”

Summary of Recommendation:

With the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee, it is great pleasure to recommend Joseph A. Gascho for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Organ, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



David Gier
Paul Boylan Collegiate Professor of Music
and Dean, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

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