

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

Michael T. Hopkins, associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Music Education, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Music Education, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	University of Michigan, Music Education
M.M.	1995	University of Michigan, Music Education
B.M.	1991	Colorado State University, Music Education

Professional Record:

2010 - present	Associate Professor of Music, Department of Music Education, University of Michigan
2005 - 2010	Associate Professor of Music, Department of Music, University of Vermont
1999 - 2005	Assistant Professor of Music, Department of Music, University of Vermont
1994 - 1999	Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Music Education, University of Michigan
1991 - 1992	Jazz Band Director, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, Colorado State University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Hopkins has taught a range of courses in the Department of Music Education including string techniques, orchestra methods, beginning guitar, educational research in the arts, psychology of music teaching and learning, doctoral seminar in music education, and quantitative research methods in music education. In his teaching, he successfully serves the needs of diverse groups of students, including students from a range of degree programs and background experience including: undergraduate string instrumentalists; wind, percussion, piano, organ, and jazz instrumentalists; voice majors; undergraduate students wishing to learn how to play the guitar; academic-year graduate students (MM and PhD); summers-only students seeking a master's degree; in-service teachers; and music performance majors interested in pedagogy and/or research. It is possible for students from two or three of these groups to enroll in any one class, and while it is easy to imagine that this would present challenges to any teacher, Professor Hopkins has demonstrated outstanding capabilities as a teacher. He continually strives to make his courses appropriately challenging and interesting for this diverse range of students, while paying close attention to the ways in which he structures his courses and the impact that structure can have on student learning. Some of the student comments included: "This is by far one of the most interesting and enjoyable music education classes I've taken," "The professor is amazing," "I learned a lot and hope to continue practicing & improving on my own," "The quality of instruction was high and clear," "Professor Hopkins is a natural teacher," "Dr. Hopkins is an exemplary educator who engages students in thinking deeply about teaching and guides their development of the skills necessary to excel in their future careers as educators."

Professional Activities: Professor Hopkins has been highly productive in his scholarly career and especially since tenure was awarded to him in 2014. His professional activity encompasses four main areas of activity: research and publication, composition, conducting, and public presentations at professional conferences. Professor Hopkins has frequently published his research in peer-reviewed

journals such as, *International Journal of Music Education*, *Journal of Music, Technology & Education*, *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Music Education Research*, and *String Research Journal*. His practitioner articles have been published in *American String Teacher*, *Music Educators Journal*, and the *Michigan Music Educator*. His scholarly research output and his output as a composer of young string ensembles demonstrates a prolific career. Since the time of his last review, 24 of his musical works have been published by Alfred Music Publications and Kendor Music Publishing. Reviewers consistently praised his book, The Art of String Teaching, which is based on his long-standing “String Pedagogy” website. This book has been the primary focus of his scholarly activity for the past several years. The main focus of the book is “comprehensive musicianship,” which Professor Hopkins describes as having five primary strands: performance skills, aural-based musicianship, music literacy, creative musicianship, and interdisciplinary connections to history and culture. Furthermore, the publisher, GIA, is a leading instructional music education textbook publisher in the United States. Since his tenure review, he has given 31 conference presentations, two of which were later published in the *International Journal of Music Education* and *Journal of Research in Music Education*.

Service: Professor Hopkins’s service record is very strong, having served as the chair of the Department of Music Education and director of the Michigan String Workshop for several years. He is also the president-elect of the Michigan chapter of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA), a member of the ASTA Research Committee, and chair of the Collegiate String Committee for ASTA at the national level. He has worked with the School of Education Teacher Certification Program to address a number of issues involving teacher certification. In 2018, he administered the Big Ten Academic Alliance Music Education Conference and hosted it here at UM. He has served as the Music Education representative on the SMTD Council of Departmental Representatives and as an alternate representative to the UM Faculty Senate Assembly of the Senate Advisory Council on University Affairs. Outreach and community engagement have also been important components of his service through his organization of the annual Bass Bash festival for middle and high school bass students and their teachers since 2011. He has also given an annual Michigan String Educators Workshop and served as a curriculum consultant for the Sphinx Organization.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “I find the quality, quantity, focus, and scholarly impact of Dr. Hopkins’ work to be impressive. While his career has been primarily focused on string music education, he has excelled in four distinct roles related to this discipline - conducting, composition, research and publication, and presentations at professional conferences and other venues. While people in similar collegiate positions often become prominent in one of these roles and may have a secondary focus in another, I know of no person with Dr. Hopkins’ level of accomplishment in all four areas. The quantity and quality of his scholarly productivity is commendable.”

Reviewer B: “His scholarship provides creative approaches in leading the profession forward. Dr. Hopkins is strongly regarded by his peers for his sustained composition and conducting activities over the course of his career, coupled with his research-informed textbook and research on important and relevant topics to school orchestra teachers.”

Reviewer C: “Dr. Hopkins has impressive depth and breadth of peer-reviewed publications that bridge the gap between research and practice. He has been published in peer-reviewed research journals. Dr. Hopkins’ presentation output is also strong, and reflects a balance of research and practitioner conferences. His areas of expertise span among topics such as string pedagogy, music composition, and technology, and he has presented at state, regional, national and international invited conferences.”

Reviewer D: “Hopkins is a productive scholar who has significantly impacted the field of string music education. His research has been published in the first-tier peer reviewed journals in music education both nationally and internationally. This publication record of music for school orchestras is the largest among his university string education colleagues. He has made significant contributions to the administration and departmental leadership in the School of Music.”

Reviewer E: “In my opinion, the collection of work produced by Dr. Hopkins thus far in his career is at a high level in terms of both quality and quantity. Dr. Hopkins is an all-around music education faculty member who has shown remarkable capabilities in multiple professional areas, as a scholar, conductor, and composer; and for the last several he has done this while serving as Chair of Music Education and receiving excellent teaching evaluations. I can think of no other strong music educator in the country doing this type of work at the high level of Dr. Hopkins.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Hopkins is also a nationally-recognized clinician, presenter, and composer. His compositions are played by school orchestras everywhere, and contribute greatly to his visibility in the world of music education. Dr. Hopkins has achieved a high standing nationally in the field of string teachers in music education.”

Reviewer G: “Dr. Hopkins is considered an expert in string instrument pedagogy. I consider Dr. Hopkins' peer-reviewed publications outstanding in both quality and quantity. The number and quality of his pedagogical publications are making a major impact in the field. Dr. Hopkins' work excels and positions him at the very top of his peers in string education at other universities.”

Reviewer H: “As far as Dr. Hopkins is concerned among his peers, I would place Dr. Hopkins among the very best in the string education world. What Dr. Hopkins also has that is rare in the string education world is his vast expertise in technology. There is no one in the music education profession with his combination of skills. My general impression of Dr. Hopkins' work is that he has made outstanding contributions to the profession.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Hopkins is a highly respected figure in the field of music education, an outstanding teacher, and continues to contribute meaningful service to his department and the profession. With the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee, it is great pleasure to recommend Michael T. Hopkins for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Music Education, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

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