

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

John Granzow, assistant professor of music, Department of Performing Arts Technology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Performing Arts Technology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2017	Stanford University, Computer Based Music Theory and Acoustics, Centre for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA)
M.A.	2012	Stanford University, Computer Based Music Theory and Acoustics, CCRMA
M.S.	2010	University of Lethbridge, Psychoacoustics, Department of Psychology
B.A.	1999	University of Lethbridge, English

Professional Record:

2015 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Performing Arts Technology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
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Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Granzow approaches teaching as a form of research, not only basing his course design on the science of learning but engaging his students in a research process as his fundamental pedagogical strategy. As described in his teaching statement, he begins many class sessions with in-class problem solving, based on the research of Peter Brown, to reveal patterns in student knowledge and skills, especially previous habits of mind students bring to the classroom. Professor Granzow analyzes and intervenes in these tendencies to expand student thinking. He further uses the research of John Buck to disrupt the typical “illusion of knowing” by decentering his own authority and as a result opening to the class to collaborative inquiry in partnership with his students.

An example of the impact of his approach is made clear by a student reviewer, whose disability was transformed in Professor Granzow’s class from the student’s own previous understanding as a barrier to be overcome to a research problem to be explored. As this student reported, “Where I found an obstacle, he showed me a new way of looking at things. He went above and beyond to assist me. I don’t think this was any sort of special treatment, seeing him with other students, I realize this is just his personality. It is his nature to find a way to help people. Inside of the classroom Professor Granzow inspired all of us, and pushed us to try new things, to be silly, and be adventurous in our musical and sound explorations.”

Professor Granzow teaches the foundational PAT 101: Freshman Seminar in Media Arts as well as four upper-level courses for PAT majors, including Digital Fabrication for Acoustics, Performance Systems, Digital Sound Synthesis, and Interactive Media Design. His teaching plays a vital role in establishing a research mindset in our program and then inspiring students to carry that research forward to discover their unique artistic voice. Professor Granzow’s teaching is a

pedagogy of individual empowerment. A student reviewer reflected upon Professor Granzow's teaching approach on their own growth: "I appreciate the way in which he [Professor Granzow] encourages me to think of my work from different perspectives, the art perspective and the engineering perspective. He consistently provided me with constructive feedback whenever I needed it. He also assisted me in growing professionally through strengthening my connection with a pioneer researcher in the field who was in his academic network. In addition, he contributed to promoting my research by inviting me to present my work at the PAT department."

Reviewers also note Professor Granzow's effectiveness as a mentor, his ability to tailor classes to a wide range of skill differences among students (say different knowledge of computer science), and his work with students from outside the PAT department, including instrumental performers and engineering students. Professor Granzow's expertise and pedagogy is expected to play an important role in this new program, both in terms of recruitment and research.

Professional Activities: Professor Granzow's research and creative activity involves the fabrication of new musical instruments, often the mixture of the physical and the digital by integrating acoustic materials and electronic signal processing. His work lies at the intersection of experimental music making and material engagement theory, that is, the notion that human beings and their things are co-creative – that humans make things that in turn make us.

His musical projects are simultaneously musical compositions and new musical instruments. For example, his work *VoxVoxel—Voice of a 3D Pixel* (2014), uses a 3D printer as a musical instrument, amplifying the microtonal acoustical sounds of its stepper motors, combined with both digital signal processing and live noise created by human interaction with vibrating materials on the instrument's surfaces. Professor Granzow has expanded and reimagined this work during his tenure at Michigan and it has been performed in San Francisco, at Electronic Music Week in Shanghai, and at the Sound Symposium in St John's Newfoundland as well as for six "Equation of Sound" concerts in Taipei, Taiwan. Professor Granzow has also premiered four additional compositions while at Michigan: *Calling Dirk*, *Axes*, *String Section*, and *Euler's Bell*, that latter of which has received performances in Michigan, Iowa, Chicago, Neerpelt and Hasselt, Belgium, and in Gdansk, Poland.

A notable strength of Professor Granzow's dossier are the fifteen research publications he has contributed in his five years on SMTD's faculty. His publication record reflects its disciplinary connections to experimental science and materials research. As such his publications detail specific experimental conceptions and their results. They are often co-authored with collaborating researchers, including other acoustic scientists but also musical performers. Professor Granzow is the lead author on seven of these publications and sole author of a chapter in the 2017 book Live-Electronic Music (Routledge). Strong evidence of the international impact of Professor Granzow's research is his 2017 award for best paper at the New Instruments for Musical Expression conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Professor Granzow has been unusually successful in securing grant support within the University of Michigan for a range of projects. As a primary investigator and collaborator, he has received more than \$885K to support research activity, primarily through the President's Arts Initiative, Humanities Collaboratory, and a Faculty Expansion Renovation Grant from the Provost Office.

Service: Professor Granzow's service record can be seen as a model for junior faculty in being generous but focused and impactful, while both facilitating his entry into the field writ large and maintaining his focus on teaching and research. Professor Granzow has provided valuable service to a number of key SMTD committees, including the Council of Departmental Representatives (our undergraduate curriculum committee), Scholarship Committee, Stearns Advisory Committee, and the Dean's Search Advisory Committee. For PAT, he has helped organize the department's ongoing professional seminar and its annual Resonance festival. It is difficult to overestimate the contribution his knowledge of fabrication and acoustic equipment made to the outfitting of the Chip Davis Studio, which was added to the Moore Building Expansion project at the last minute because of the donor's generosity. Professor Granzow's expertise and long hours of assessment and planning helped to make the studio a gem of SMTD's facilities and a leading experimental music lab in the nation. As such it serves as a powerful recruiting tool that will become only more important as our Ph.D. program is opened. Professor Granzow has further offered his service as a reviewer to the field's major professional organizations, including the Acoustical Society of America and the International Computer Music Association, along with others.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "John's interests are widespread, which clearly benefits his teaching. His syllabi are very compelling and represent state-of-the-art teaching. John's Teaching Portfolio is written from a dedicated teacher's perspective, and his teaching evaluations are exceptionally high. It is clear from his course evaluations, and students' testimonials that he is an outstanding teacher who supports students' critical thinking."

Reviewer B: "Two areas of particular expertise and focus, represented across Dr. Granzow's teaching, research, and creative outputs, are performance systems, and 3D fabrication of musical instruments. The integration of these elements speaks to sustained intellectual curiosity indicating significant impact...Also notable is the large degree of collaboration in Dr. Granzow's projects, an increasingly important ability in the academy, especially in conducting interdisciplinary work."

Reviewer C: "Professor Granzow has demonstrated his clear capabilities for contributing to the development of the fields of experimental music and sonic art, as well as building a most impressive program of research in these areas. He has shown not only a high level of technical competence and creative ability, but also the ability to work with a variety of researchers across disciplines."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Granzow demonstrates active publication and artistic presentation records at a high level; contributes to his field through his work as a researcher, educator, and reviewer; shows an ability to obtain and manage significant funding; attracts students to his specialty; has international exposure through academic presentations and artistic performances; has strong teaching evaluations; and is actively involved in university administration at various positions with various responsibilities."

Reviewer E: "I was immediately impressed and fascinated by John's area of research: combination of 3D printing and musical acoustics. This field of research is extremely innovative and has been since followed up by other scholars."

Reviewer F: “John has developed an impressive interdisciplinary skillset spanning music composition, performance, design, engineering, critical studies and cognitive science. While he has clearly gained significant expertise across these areas, John has also rightly engaged in extensive collaboration with others to address this challenge in all of its complexity...Notably, these are collaborations in which John has often played a leading role, or in which his signature approach to thinking and making beyond the digital and acoustic divide is clearly evident.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Granzow is a valuable member of the SMTD faculty, an innovative teacher, and an active and insightful researcher with a record of peer-reviewed publication and creative activity of national and international scope and impact. I expect him to continue on a trajectory of growth and see his promotion as both highly deserved and a strategic advantage to a growing department and its future doctoral program. With the unanimous support of the school’s Executive Committee, I strongly recommend and support John Granzow for promotion to the rank of associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Performing Arts Technology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

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