

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

Stephen A. Lusmann, associate professor of music, with tenure, Department of Voice, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Voice, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Artist Diploma	1982	University of Cincinnati-College of Conservatory of Music, Voice
M.A.	1980	University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music, Vocal
B.A.	1977	State University of New York College at Fredonia, Music Education,

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Associate Professor of Music, Voice, University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
2018 – 2019	Interim Chair of Department of Voice, University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
1999 – 2005	Assistant Professor of Music, Voice, University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
2001 – Present	Principal Voice Teacher, Seagle Music Colony
2010 – 2017	Principal Voice Teacher, Fort Worth Opera Studio
2002 – 2005	Conductor, University of Michigan Men’s Glee Club
1996 – 1999	Master Teacher (Voice), Artist in Residence, Fairmont State College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Lusmann is recognized for his long record of successful teaching. He teaches first year students through doctoral students in one-on-one lessons and supervises student capstone recitals. He is dedicated to his students’ success in their development as performers and he is sensitive to their needs as learners, being ever mindful of the psychological, perceptual, and experiential aspects that may support or hinder a student’s development as a singer. Professor Lusmann consistently receives high student evaluations, and his students have gone on to successful careers as performers and teachers. His students have won prominent competitions (International Dvorák Competition in the Czech Republic, the Joy in Singing Competition in New York City, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions), performed with important opera houses in the US and abroad (Michigan Opera Theater, Tulsa Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre, Nashville Opera, Deutsche Opera, Berlin, and the Orchestre Métropolitain, Montreal), gained admission to prestigious training programs, and secured leading roles in national tours of Broadway musicals. His students consistently win lead roles in SMTD productions. He has a particularly strong record of teaching and mentoring graduate students and helping to place them into academic positions. His former students now hold teaching positions at University of North Florida, Moody Bible Institute, Saginaw State College, Eastern Michigan University, Wayne State University, Millikin University, University of North Carolina at Greensborough, Lincoln University, University of Wisconsin, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Professor Lusmann is regarded nationally as a master teacher, in no small part because of the highly visible success of his students. His nearly twenty years of teaching at the Seagle Music Colony, the oldest summer vocal training program in the United States, is highly notable, and has facilitated the recruitment of excellent voice students to U-M. As evidence of his stature as a teacher, Professor Lusmann has given invited masterclasses at the State University of New York at Fredonia, Sarasota Voice Academy, Carnegie Mellon University, Northwestern University, Western Washington University, Texas Christian University, Florentine Opera Apprentice Artists, and Timisoara Conservatory of Music (Romania). In 2020, he received the SMTD Harold Haugh Award for Excellence in Studio Teaching, the school's highest honor for an individual teaching in the private, applied studio.

Professional Activities: Professor Lusmann's creative and professional activity since achieving the rank of associate professor in 2005 reflects a progression that is common for vocalists. As noted earlier, Professor Lusmann joined the SMTD faculty with a high profile as an operatic singer. Professor Lusmann has performed multiple roles with the Michigan Opera Theatre (2007-09, 2015, 2017), the Fort Worth Opera (2013), the Florentine Opera (2012), and the Opera Company of North Carolina (2008, 2007). Professor Lusmann released three solo CD recordings (2016, 2009, 2006) of new, and previously unrecorded repertoire, all on nationally distributed labels. This is a very high level of productivity, well above the norm for SMTD performing faculty. Regionally, Professor Lusmann has performed at Concordia University Midland Center for the Arts, with the Michigan Philharmonic, the Motorcity Lyric Opera, and the Flint, Pontiac Oakland, and Plymouth symphonies. On campus, he has been a featured soloist with the Symphony Band, and the University Symphony, and has performed in recital with the Michigan Chamber Players (2013, 2016), and presented multiple solo recitals, as well.

In 2019 and 2020, Professor Lusmann created an abbreviated English version of one of the most famous and beloved works of opera, *La Bohème* by Giacomo Puccini. He entitled this new version *The Bohemians*, and one of his goals with this project was to make the music and story more accessible to a wider and younger audience and range of performers. With a Faculty Research Grant from SMTD, he was able to produce a video recording of the work. The creation of this performance edition represents a change of direction for Professor Lusmann and is a valuable contribution to his discipline. His body of creative and professional work since his promotion in 2005 is substantial, and its progression, from national and international engagements early in Professor Lusmann's career, to more regional performances, is typical for singers. Professor Lusmann has sustained his national reputation through his highly visible performances and widely distributed recordings, and his long association with the Seagle Colony. He has opened up creative possibilities for the future with his recent adaptation of *La Bohème*.

Service: Since 2005, Professor Lusmann has made particularly significant contributions in service to the Department of Voice, SMTD and the UM. Within the school, he has served as the interim chair of the Department of Voice during a particularly trying period for the department and the school. He served in that role with grace and equanimity. He has chaired three search committees, and been a member of the Scholarship Committee, a particularly time-intensive and sensitive task.

Professor Lusmann has been a generous contributor in service to the university community. He represented the school as an elected member of SACUA and made important contributions to university governance through his work on the Member Engagement Health Plan Design and Implementation Committee, the MHealthy Advisory Committee, the UM Tenure Review Committee, and the U-M Government Relations Committee. For the profession, he has been a panelist for OPERA America (the premier professional organization), an adjudicator for numerous competitions, and a member of National Board of Governors for the American Guild of Music Artists.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “For the impressive teaching and service loads that he has kept I am glad to see that the U.M. honored him with the Harold Haugh Award...Stephen’s continual work at the Seagle Colony really stands out. Additionally, he seems to be in demand as a masterclass teacher.”

Reviewer B: “Professor Lusmann’s most recent scholarly work, *The Bohemians*, will have a long-lasting effect in music schools that are continually in search of operatic works appropriate for college singers. His musical adaptation and translation of Puccini’s *La Boheme* is outstanding, original in concept and execution, and ultimately useful. The award of the 2020 School of Music, Theatre and Dance Faculty Research Grant for producing a performance of *The Bohemians* is evidence that the school recognizes the value of his work.”

Reviewer C: “Clearly his students are very happy. His reviews are uniformly high. He has listed his students’ numerous achievements in performance and their own academic positions. This is the track record of a successful teacher. Since he has taught exclusively studio voice for many years, you have recognized his strengths as a voice builder, and have awarded him the Harold Haugh Award for Excellence in Studio Teaching.”

Reviewer D: “I find Professor Lusmann to be working at the highest level, due, in part, to the fact that he and his work are well known and garner respect, as one can gather from his letters of support. His excellent student evaluations and the fact that his students have been and continue to be highly successful support my viewpoint.”

Reviewer E: “The proof in the pudding is the quality of his students and I have heard several in recent years who all showed very well. I like the way the students sing, and surely this is a testament to his singing and teaching.”

Reviewer F: “As to his standing in his field, the success of his students surely has extended his reputation as a pedagogue and that should not be undervalued...Prof. Lusmann is obviously a valued member of your faculty and has demonstrated outstanding success as a studio professor.”

Reviewer G: “As an academic, [P]rofessor Lusmann enjoys superior student evaluations over the years at the University of Michigan. In the comment section of those evaluations, you can glean a sense of appreciation and devotion to him and his teaching from these students. This, of course, is a huge marker in the effectiveness of a professor of voice and an absolute requirement in consideration for promotion.”

Reviewer H: “His professional accomplishments in choral conducting, voice teaching, and performance demonstrate his expertise in a broad spectrum of skill sets and strongly define the highest level of music making and musicianship...His work with *Opera America*, the Seagle Music Colony and Fort Worth Opera stand out as exceptional. The proof of great voice teaching is mirrored by the professional accomplishments of his students.

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Lusmann has been a dedicated and effective teacher at SMTD for decades and is admired nationally as a pedagogue. His cumulative record of professional accomplishments as performing artist, on stage, on recording, and now with the recent Puccini project, bring luster to the School and inform his teaching. Professor Lusmann is a devoted citizen of the School, the university, and his professional community. With the unanimous support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee, I enthusiastically recommend and support Stephen A. Lusmann for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, Department of Voice, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

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