

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

Daniel Gilbert, associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

M.M. 1988 The Juilliard School
B.A. 1986 Yale University

Professional Record:

2007 – present Associate Professor of Music, Department of Winds and Percussion,
University of Michigan
2002 – present Instructor, Case Western Reserve University
2002 – 2008 Artist in Residence, SUNY Stony Brook
2001 – 2002 Associate Professor, Oberlin Conservatory of Music
1992 – 1995 Instructor, Brooklyn Conservatory of Music

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Gilbert is one of the most respected clarinet teachers in the country, and has an impressive track record of success with students at all levels, from first-year undergraduates to doctoral candidates. He teaches applied clarinet lessons, coaches chamber music ensembles, and leads the doctoral seminar on performance practice. In applied lessons, he encourages students to practice and learn new material with a diligent and methodical approach to enhance fundamental clarinet skills and produce the most musical result possible. He has developed his own pedagogical materials that have proven effective in helping students develop a solid foundation of tone and a more varied palette of colors in their playing.

Professor Gilbert's student evaluations are uniformly positive and highly complimentary of his pedagogy skills. Letters from former and current students were unanimous in their praise of his skills as a teacher, and note his ability to foster their musical curiosity, and prepare them as individuals for varied careers in music. A former student reported that she "felt prepared to enter the field of music and found meaningful work immediately" due to Professor Gilbert's excellent instructional methods and precise feedback. Professor Gilbert's former students have attained success at the highest level of the profession, winning positions in ensembles such as the New York City Ballet Orchestra, the Nashville Symphony, the Phoenix Symphony, and the Richmond Symphony, and elite chamber groups such as the Imani Winds and the Akropolis Quintet, and securing academic positions at institutions such as Western Michigan University, Louisiana State University, the University of Nevada-Reno, and University of North Texas. The success of his former students is indicative of his dedication, compassion, and his enthusiasm for teaching.

Professional Activities: Professor Gilbert came to Michigan as one of the country's most esteemed orchestral performers, with a distinguished career as a member of the Cleveland Orchestra, and as a guest artist with the Seattle Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and numerous regional ensembles. He has continued to build on that profile since coming to SMTD, and performs frequently with outstanding chamber and orchestral ensembles, and as a soloist. Since 2007 he has performed with CityMusic Cleveland, Classical Tahoe Chamber Orchestra, Blackburn Academy – Festival Napa Valley, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Cincinnati Symphony, Danish Radio Symphony, and Milwaukee Symphony, and, since 2019, the prestigious Brevard Music Center, among others. In all of these contexts he works with some of the finest musicians in the country. As a chamber musician, Professor Gilbert is regularly invited to perform works from the classical music canon as well as new works with renowned artists in prestigious venues. He is recognized as an exceptional recitalist and has been an invited guest performer/presenter at top music schools (Eastman School, Cincinnati Conservatory, Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music (Canada), Sichuan Conservatory) and festivals throughout the US and abroad.

Service: Professor Gilbert has served as the chair of the Department of Winds and Percussion since 2018 and has done an admirable job in that role. He has also served on several committees within the School of Music, Theatre & Dance including the DEI Faculty and Staff Action Team, the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct in the Performing Arts, as well as three different Launch Committees for new faculty. He also led one of the task forces charged with planning for SMTD's COVID-19 response in 2020. Outside of UM, he serves as a board member of the CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra, a member of the Artistic Advisory Board of the Meiling 18th Symphony Foundation, and was a member of the conductor search committee for the Classical Tahoe Music Festival. Professor Gilbert is a willing and effective contributor to the university and his profession, and I anticipate that his role will increase in the coming years.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Mr. Gilbert has one of the finest international and national reputations I have experienced. His performing is always of the highest artistic level and his teaching is known as some of the finest among college professors. Mr. Gilbert's work at the University of Michigan is now legendary and his position there has given him an incredible outlet. His development of a positive and encouraging work environment has always made his studio a place I recommend to my students and colleagues."

Reviewer B: "Both in recordings and in live performance, Professor Gilbert consistently plays with beauty of tone, a skilled command of the instrument, fine intonation, liquid-velvet legato, and a sensitive and dynamic creative artistry in multiple styles and genres. Additionally, his list of nationally and internationally recognized high-profile chamber music performances, recitals, and national and international masterclasses are [sic] impressive"

Reviewer C: "Mr. Gilbert is one of the premier artists of the highest echelon in the clarinet world. As a professor and renowned pedagogue, Mr. Gilbert is highly regarded and sought after and makes impressive and significant contributions to the clarinet field. His students are incredibly successful and thriving in the professional world, and his recruiting success and list of student successes is nothing short of outstanding."

Reviewer D: “It is clear to me by looking at his materials, including his recordings and videos, Mr. Gilbert is a very caring teacher and performer as well as someone who is working tirelessly to advance the instrument for future generations. Without a doubt, Mr. Gilbert is a fantastic artist and outstanding mentor for his students. I would give only the highest of recommendations for Mr. Daniel Gilbert and his promotion to Professor at the University of Michigan School of Music.”

Reviewer E: “The performances featured on Professor Gilbert’s live recordings are outstanding, virtually flawless in execution. Professor Gilbert is a superb clarinetist by any standard. Daniel Gilbert has certainly earned his fine reputation amongst peers throughout the nation as an outstanding performer who has an impressive body of work in orchestral, solo, and chamber performance. He has undoubtedly established himself as a leader in clarinet instruction whose students have documented success.”

Reviewer F: “I consider his teaching and student successes to be his greatest accomplishment. His philosophy of clarinet sound and clarinet teaching have proven successful for the types of employment his students are getting. Professor Gilbert is highly respected as an artist-performer and teacher. He is sought after as a performer, a master class clinician, and obviously, a university teacher.”

Reviewer G: “There are so many impressive highlights in Dan’s resume that it’s hard to pick one. Dan Gilbert is truly a household name amongst clarinetists for his recording, recitals, orchestral work, and teaching. He is one of the most respected teachers and performers in our field. He is truly one of a kind and, in my humble estimation, fully deserving of this promotion at your institution.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Gilbert is an internationally recognized clarinetist with an exceptionally strong record of performance activity at the highest levels of the profession, notable success as a teacher and mentor, and strong contributions in service to the school and profession. With the unanimous support of the school’s Executive Committee, I strongly recommend Daniel Gilbert for promotion to the rank of professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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

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