

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

Chad E. Burrow, 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. 2001 Yale University, New Haven, CT, Clarinet
B.M. 1998 Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, Clarinet

Professional Record:

2015 - present Associate Professor of Music, with tenure, Department of Winds & Percussion, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
2009 - 2015 Assistant Professor of Music, Department of Winds & Percussion, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
2006 - 2009 Associate Professor of Clarinet, with tenure, Wanda L. Bass School of Music, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, OK
2001- 2006 Assistant Professor of Clarinet, Wanda L. Bass School of Music, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, OK
1999 - 2001 Teaching Assistant, School of Music, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Burrow is considered a master teacher, with a particular expertise in classical and contemporary clarinet performance practice. He teaches applied clarinet lessons, coaches chamber music ensembles, and leads the doctoral seminar on performance practice. His course materials are exemplary and contain clear and detailed assignments and expectations. He supplements his in-person instruction with wonderfully researched and written essays on practicing and aesthetics for students and integrates his own creative activity into his teaching in a purposeful and meaningful way.

Professor Burrow's effectiveness and impact as a teacher is evident in the success of his students, who hold positions in leading orchestras (Detroit Symphony, Nashville Symphony, Virginia Symphony, San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, among others), military bands (including the premiere Congressional-mandate ensembles, the U.S. Navy Band, and the "President's Own" Marine Band), prominent chamber ensembles (Akropolis Reed Quintet), and colleges and universities. Professor Burrow is a devoted and insightful contributor to graduate education in SMTD and has served on over 50 DMA exam and dissertation committees, an exceptionally high number, and evidence of the respect he holds with both students and his peers.

Professional Activities: Professor Burrow is a world-renowned clarinetist, admired for both his interpretations of the canonic repertoire, and his devotion to new and lesser-known works. Since 2015, he has contributed significantly to the field and sustained a high level of activity as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer. He has performed at important venues worldwide,

including as a featured artist at the 9th International European Clarinet Festival (Italy), and the Shenzhen International Clarinet Festival. He has been an invited artist/teacher in Taiwan, at multiple conservatories in China, and at major colleges and universities throughout the U.S., including Ball State, Northwestern, University of Alabama, Kansas University, Baylor, Lawrence University Conservatory, Washington State, Longy School of Music at Bard College, and more.

Professor Burrows is an avid chamber musician. He collaborates with musicians from major American and European orchestras, international competition winners, and faculty of leading music Schools. In Michigan, he performs regularly with Detroit Chamber Winds alongside members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Since 2006, he has been the co-artistic director and clarinetist for the Brightmusic Society of Oklahoma, an Oklahoma City-based chamber ensemble that presents 10 to 12 performances during the regular season and a two-week summer music festival.

Professor Burrow sustains a high level of activity as an orchestral musician, serving as the principal clarinetist of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra (since 2016), the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, and as a substitute with Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra (now Detroit Opera), including serving as the acting principal in fall 2023. He has a number of major creative projects in the works: he will be a featured artist at the 2024 International Clarinet Association Conference in Dublin, Ireland this summer, and has a new solo recording in final stages of production. With respect to quantity, quality, and impact, Professor Burrow's professional activity is outstanding.

Service: Professor Burrow has been a strong contributor to service within SMTD, having served on the graduate curriculum committee, the Covid-19 Task Force, Scholarship Committee, as well as a recent faculty search committee. He is active in the International Clarinet Society, the premiere professional organization for clarinets, and has also served as an adjudicator for important competitions, including the International Clarinet Competition "Ciro Scarponi," and the renowned Concert Artist Guild chamber music competition (recording round). Professor Burrow is a thoughtful and effective contributor in service to the school and his profession.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Associate Professor Burrow has had a distinguished teaching career at the University of Michigan and is a nationally and internationally recognized artist clarinetist and teacher. His sustained record of teaching and performing in regional, national, and international venues continues to this day and he has clearly gone beyond what is considered the normal standard for the rank of full professor at any university. He is a leader in contemporary clarinet technique and performance and can perform a large variety of styles. He consistently maintains the very highest of musical performance standards. Mr. Burro's teaching is very successful due to his recruiting abilities, team-player mentality, and an obviously outstanding grasp of pedagogy."

Reviewer B: "...his many achievements are noteworthy. As an example, I would list all the numerous national and international recitals and master classes he has done. The list is frankly quite impressive, and they run the gamut from smaller places to much larger schools, competitions, and festivals throughout the world. They include schools that can help him to recruit new students to Michigan as well as foreign venues..."

Reviewer C: “Mr. Burrow’s work has had a huge impact on the field in the area of clarinet pedagogy and performance. Notably is his success rate of student placement in positions at major universities, orchestras and ensembles in the United States. These successes have included an impressive list of organizations including the University of Las Vegas, Virginia Symphony, University of Reno, Nevada, Reno Philharmonic, The President’s Own Marine Band, United States Air Force Band of the West, Phoenix Symphony, US Air Force Band, US Army Field Band (DC) and the US Coast Guard Band of New London, CT. This partial list would be impressive on its own for most teachers at his current rank but in this case, is exceptional. His high standards and abilities as a teacher and mentor are clearly reflected here. His dedication to high-quality teaching and recruiting has allowed him to see quantitative results in his students’ real-world job placements. An achievement he has successfully navigated in an extremely difficult and competitive field.”

Reviewer D: “He is a prominent chamber musician and solo performer who appears consistently at significant venues, notably at the Alpenkammermusik in Europe. Recent guest master classes include prominent venues such as Northwestern University and UBC Vancouver. I feel that Professor Burrow continues to function as a resourceful, creative and energetic artist/teacher and he would be considered worthy of senior professorial rank with tenure at...or any other high-level music academy.”

Reviewer E: “Teaching his students to be both fine clarinetists and musicians seems to be the core driver for Professor Burrow’s motivation and focus at the UM. His educational philosophy in his promotion materials deals with the all-important lesson/program structure of the individually crafted curriculums of the individual students, but he also seems keen to make his students become creative thinkers and active learners. In other words, he is interested in teaching the whole organism. The fulsome list of past student successes is appropriate for Professor Burrow’s level.”

Reviewer F: “Stated simply, Professor Burrow’s quality and quantity of work are impressive. The performances featured on his recording links are outstanding, virtually flawless in execution...Professor Burrow is, without question, a superb clarinetist, and a significant role model for his students. He is an active performer in all facets of our profession including concerto performances, solo recitals, myriad chamber performances, substantive orchestral work including as Principal Clarinetist of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, and participation in music festivals including the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, the Arizona Music Fest, and the Alpenkammermusik Festival.”

Reviewer G: “[Professor Burrow] has a sustained and unequivocal record of excellence in teaching at the highest level. This is evidenced by the high quality of instructional materials in the dossier (I’m inspired to use some of Chad’s methods with my own students), excellent student ratings, his reputation as a teacher and the long list of student successes. I certainly send my students to audition for him with hopes of studying for MM and DMA degrees. Compared to peers in the clarinet world, I would categorize Chad’s teaching as superior and most sought-after. Chad has a sustained and distinguished record of creative activity. He has an international profile as a distinguished soloist and chamber musician...As a performer, it is my opinion that Chad performs at the highest level. Compared to others in the profession, his technique, artistry and refinement are superior.”

Reviewer H: “The quality and quantity of Professor Burrow’s work are impressive. If one takes the view that quality ought to come before quantity in domains such as practice, teaching, and performing, it seems appropriate to state that Burrow is in my opinion one of the finest clarinet players of his generation, by any standard...I wish to point to his nuanced and carefully articulated ideas about teaching, music itself, and practicing. If he were simply and only the wonderful player he is, he would still be a meaningful and top-level model for his students and colleagues. When one adds to that his sensitive and probing thinking about what he values, one finds a rich and powerful mix of artist/teacher/performer and person.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Burrow is an internationally recognized soloist and chamber musician, widely considered one of the leading clarinetists of his generation. He is a highly regarded and influential teacher, whose students hold prominent positions in the field. With the unanimous support of the school’s Executive Committee, I enthusiastically recommend Chad E. Burrow 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

May 2024