

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

Andrew Milne, assistant professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

B.F.A. 1990 York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Jazz

Professional Record:

2018 - present	Assistant Professor, Department of Jazz & Contemporary Improvisation, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2014 - 2017	Adjunct Professor, Jazz Studies, Columbia University, New York, NY
2009 - present	Assistant Director, School of Improvisational Music, Center for Improvisational Music, Brooklyn, NY
2007 - 2018	Adjunct Associate Professor, Jazz Studies, Steinhardt School, New York University, New York, NY
2002 - 2018	Adjunct Associate Professor, Jazz & Contemporary Improvisation, College of Performing Arts, The New School, New York, NY

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Within SMTD, Professor Milne serves as a studio teacher in the area of jazz piano, teaching lessons to approximately 10 to 14 jazz piano students per week. In addition, he directs the department's small jazz ensemble program, and has made significant changes to the way that important curricular component is organized and delivered. Professor Milne strives to realize each individual student's potential in his teaching. His syllabi and course materials are well organized, and clearly communicate expectations. Professor Milne is noted for his commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in teaching, and has been involved with ADVANCE Faculty of Color events and CRLT Equity in Teaching workshops.

Student evaluations and narrative comments reflect admiration for Professor Milne's rigor and knowledge. Letters submitted by students as part of the review process provide evidence of Professor Milne's impact on his students' musical growth, citing the helpful strategies he utilizes to help them learn and his dedication to student success and professional preparation.

Professor Milne's students have been very successful. Notably, a graduate of his studio was selected as the 2022 Albert A. Stanley Award winner, given annually to the school's most outstanding graduating senior. His students have gone on to prestigious graduate programs, had success in national and international competitions, and created vibrant performing careers.

Professional Activities: Professor Milne's scholarly and creative work is of the highest quality, and since coming to Michigan, he has sustained a remarkable level of productivity, and high visibility in the profession. As a jazz pianist, Professor Milne has continued to perform at important jazz festivals worldwide (Madrid, Rochester, San Francisco Jazz, Vancouver, among

others) and in the most prestigious venues, including Koehner Hall (Toronto) and Jazz at Lincoln Center, for example. Professor Milne was awarded the prestigious Juno Award for Jazz Album of the Year by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for his recordings, *The Seasons of Being* and *The reMission*. This award is similar to a Grammy Award and provides evidence of his exceptional reach and impact as a jazz artist. He has also performed as a sideman on five other albums and released two recordings as producer.

Professor Milne's artistry was recognized with a featured article in a 2020 issue of the jazz profession's most important publication, *Downbeat* magazine. In 2020, "The reMission" was included in the *All About Jazz* list of top recordings, in addition to being featured on NPR's *Jazz Night in America*, *Hour Detroit*, Sirius XM Radio's *Jeff Sammut Show*, *Rogers TV News*, and *Global TV News*.

Since coming to Michigan, Professor Milne has developed a number of innovative interdisciplinary projects focused on how sound and music can be used in chronic pain management. He has been active in collaborations with Medical School's Department of Urology for the Nesbit Centennial. His collaborative team was awarded an MCube grant for their work, and Professor Milne was named a Nesbitt Society Distinguished Fellow by University of Michigan Urology for this work. He has also collaborated with the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, the Positive Steps program in the Center for Managing Chronic Disease, and the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education at the School of Public Health. In terms of quantity, quality, and professional impact, Professor Milne's creative work is exemplary, and with his most recent interdisciplinary activity, he is clearly on a strong trajectory.

Service: Professor Milne has been extremely active in service since joining the faculty at SMTD, serving on high profile and active committees, such as the SMTD Council of Departmental Representatives (undergraduate curriculum committee), Scholarship Committee, Faculty Awards Committee, and two SMTD search committees. Within the broader profession, Professor Milne has provided service as a juror for the National Endowment for the Arts, and an elected delegate to the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Notably, Professor Milne was asked to serve as the music consultant for the Royal Canadian Mint in the design of the new circulating Oscar Peterson one dollar coin. Professor Milne has proven to be a thoughtful and engaged citizen of the school and university, and a willing participant in service to his profession, as well.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "It [is] obvious that his creative output is quite substantial, and of a very high level of artistry. His recording output is plentiful and significant, having released numerous albums as a leader as well as performing as a sideman with a multitude of other significant artists...In reviewing all of Professor Milne's materials, it is indeed difficult to find any area which he is lacking in! As a fellow pianist/performer/composer/educator, I can appreciate the difficulty in balancing a professional music career with being a dedicated and engaged full-time University professor, and Milne seems to be doing so at an extremely high level...it is abundantly clear to me that professor Andy Milne is well-deserving of being awarded tenure at your institution, and that the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance would continue to be well-served by his talents."

Reviewer B: “From a qualitative standpoint, [P]rofessor Milne’s recorded performances and writing are outstanding and would easily satisfy tenure and promotion criteria for quality at any peer institution, including [my institution]. In fact, the scope, depth, and quality of Mr. Milne’s work are representative of a mature artist with a substantial record of artistic and professional success that would merit strong consideration for Full Professor...The national and international professional record that is in evidence within this dossier reflects a substantial profile that has been developed over many decades and should serve as an invaluable model for students. The ability and willingness to share the fruits of this process is a critical tool for teaching the next generation of artists and would seem to be in lock step with the artistic and professional training goals at a program such as the University of Michigan...It is clear that Professor Milne’s dossier documents the creative work and level of artistry representative of a person who has achieved a prominent position of leadership in the field of Jazz.”

Reviewer C: “As a pianist, he has an expert command of traditional jazz piano performance practice but has also developed a personal harmonic language in his compositions, and he brings a wonderfully delicate touch to interact with his bandmates...I was very impressed by Prof. Milne’s contributions, particularly his ability to apply his individual harmonic and textural sensibility within a wide variety of compositional spaces, and with the diversity of strategies he found to support his collaborators, interacting in ways that were fresh, compelling and unpredictable but always in support of the overall compositional concept.”

Reviewer D: “Andy Milne’s work is truly world-class. His accomplishments to date far exceed what would be a lifetime of career accomplishments for most of us in the field. As for his potential for continued productivity, I see no end to his creative output and no end to my continued interest in his work (and I know I’m not alone in that regard). Rest assured that the quality and quantity of Andy Milne’s work far exceed the expectations of most of the finest collegiate music institutions in the country.”

Reviewer E: “Of the many impressive milestones in Milne’s career, the two JUNO Awards stand out prominently. These jury-selected awards are presented by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, to recognize outstanding achievements in the music [industry]. The significance of these awards lies not just in the recognition they bring, but also in the meticulous selection process carried out by expert panels...Andy Milne’s portfolio is a testament to his artistic excellence and unwavering commitment to the world of music. His impact as a pianist, composer, and educator is undeniable, and his achievements have resonated both nationally and internationally.”

Reviewer F: “Prof. Milne’s creative research is prolific, varied, forward-thinking, and consistently of the highest caliber. He has a well-earned, fully deserved, and continually expanding national and international reputation as an outstanding pianist, composer, and bandleader with a distinct and accomplished creative voice...Another top recognition of Prof. Milne’s work are his two Juno awards for Jazz Group Album of the Year, which he received for two albums recorded as a leader in 2019 and 2021...I can attest to the impact of this award — like the American Grammys, it is widely understood to recognize the very best recorded music in Canada each year and being a winner of (or even just finalist for) a Juno award is a significant career achievement; for a jazz artist to do so twice is remarkable.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Milne is a world-class jazz musician with a superb record of productivity as a performer, recording artist, and composer. He is a dedicated and rigorous teacher, who has had success preparing his students for their careers and is generous in service to the school, university, and profession. With the support of the school's Executive Committee, I strongly recommend Andrew Milne for promotion to the rank of associate 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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