



THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Potsdam

Reappointment recommendation for Erin Brooks

Teaching:

I observed Dr. Brooks's Music History I class on 10/4/17, and was thoroughly impressed by her skills in the classroom. The topic for this lecture was the *Ars Nova*, and she began by reviewing material that the class had either already discussed or perhaps read in the text (development of time signatures and rhythm). She then embarked on one of the central concepts of this style, isorhythm, with examples by Vitry and Machaut. Rather than just lecturing on this topic, Dr. Brooks employed several pedagogical approaches simultaneously. She used construction paper and had students participate in a physical representation of isorhythmic procedures, while at the same time projecting relevant information on the screen. All the while, Dr. Brooks was interjecting additional contextual information and encouraging students to ask questions and relate this style to previous material they had covered. In the midst of all of this activity, score study and listening were also covered. Based on this demonstration, it is not surprising that her teaching evaluations from this past year were superb. Her reflections are thoughtful, and clearly demonstrate that she is focused on continual development and improvement in the classroom.

Scholarly activity:

Dr. Brooks has established an active publication/presentation schedule, including a recent international conference presentation and two forthcoming publications. Her activity in the American Musicological Society is particularly impressive and encouraging, with a paper presentation at the annual meeting in 2016, and now serving as a panel chair and co-organizer at the upcoming 2017 meeting in Rochester. Given the current climate on campus, her research on Musicology and Trauma is especially valuable, as is her recent participation in the "Teaching Racial Justice through Music History" panel during the campus "Days of Reflection." Dr. Brooks's future research agenda looks promising, with several interesting projects and publications in the works.

Service:

Dr. Brooks's service to Crane and the campus-wide community is exemplary. She is an active and collegial member of the Theory, History, and Composition department, is already serving on a search committee, and has maintained active committee roles in the Crane Faculty Association and the Campus Faculty Senate.

I strongly recommend Dr. Brooks for reappointment.

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