

TWO:
UNIT RECOMMENDATION

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts
School of Music™

September 4, 2018

Professor Kim Walker, Director
School of Music, Texas Tech University

RE: DR. KIMBERLY SPARR, TENURE AND PROMOTION
FORMAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

INTRODUCTION:

The Faculty Evaluation Committee has reviewed Dr. Sparr's dossier and audited lessons. We submit the following comments for the consideration of the voting faculty.

Dr. Kimberly Sparr, Assistant Professor of Viola, joined the faculty of the School of Music at Texas Tech University September 1, 2013. Before her appointment at Texas Tech, she served for five years as Assistant Principal Viola with the Richmond, Virginia Symphony Orchestra. She has also performed with major ICSOM orchestras including the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra. As a pedagogue she served one year as adjunct faculty at The College of William and Mary, and three years as an Affiliate Artist at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

She holds a Bachelor of Music from Rice University, a Master of Music from New England Conservatory, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Maryland.

TEACHING:

Dr. Kimberley Sparr continues to be a very effective recruiter in quantity and quality of viola students: In Spring 2018, Dr. Sparr's viola studio numbered 9 undergraduates (one non-major), and 3 graduates. For Fall 2018, her studio is made up of 10 undergraduates (one non-major), and 4 graduates.

As for her recruiting efforts, she presented a very healthy number of masterclasses, clinics, and presentations locally for HS students, and many masterclasses at the collegiate level all over the US. Her work as a pedagogue has been recognized in that she is the recipient of three Texas Tech sponsored awards: Raiders Who Rock Unsung Hero Award, New Faculty Award from the TTU Alumni Association, and the Apple Polishing Award from the TTU Forum Chapter of Mortar Board. Additionally she is the recipient of three other awards from outside the University.

Dr. Sparr is a delightful, positive, supportive, caring, inspiring, insightful, and enthusiastic pedagogue - but at the same time one that knows how to effectively challenge her students. The chamber music students thoroughly enjoy her coaching. Her student evaluation numbers and comments are off-the-charts: The numbers are a preponderance of 5's, with a remarkable five semester's posting of a perfect 5.00 total summary average! Judging from the students' written evaluations, one can feel the love, admiration, respect and appreciation the students have for her.

Dr. Sparr actively advises the career development of her students, and as a result viola student achievements are enviable: many have been accepted into prestigious summer festivals, the Lubbock and Midland Symphony Orchestras, and graduate programs at Indiana University and the University of Houston. A recent graduate from Dr. Sparr's studio won a viola position in the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Kimberly Sparr is a role model for the SOM students not just as a violist, not just as an artist, but also as a professional, a colleague and - simply put - as a person.

RESEARCH/CREATIVE WORK:

Dr. Sparr is a sought-after chamber music collaborator within and outside of TTU, including performances in the state of Texas, as well as in a number of states east of the Mississippi, cultivating diverse partnerships with other artists. She appears to be missed by her colleagues from her pre-TTU professional life: it is not unusual for her to travel back to Maryland and Virginia to perform chamber music with them. Dr. Sparr brings a breadth of knowledge from numerous areas of viola performance to TTU. Since her appointment to TTU, she has played in eight different orchestras (most often as principal viola), maintaining a current and active professional orchestral career. Three of her solo appearances are impressive in that they are concerto soloist performances in front of

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orchestras or chorus, including being only the second artist to perform Pulitzer Prize Winner Jennifer Higdon's *Concerto for Viola*.

As evidenced by Dr. Sparr's live and recorded performances of many different genres, she demonstrates that she is a performing soloist and collaborative artist of very high caliber, comparing favorably to musicians holding principal positions in prestigious major orchestras throughout the US. Her playing is typified by a warm, expressive, and clear tone throughout the range of the viola, as well as possessing superb technical prowess. She is obviously committed to and passionate about new music, having commissioned and performed many exciting and innovative new works; music often using extended techniques such as scordatura, and the use of electric viola. Additionally, she employs modern, progressive use of media in her performances and videos.

SERVICE:

Her expertise and contributions are highly valued at Texas Tech and elsewhere. Dr. Sparr has served on five committees for the School of Music and at the College level including serving on the Musicology Search Committee. She is active in serving in other capacities, including doing an excellent job as acting Chair of the String Department, coordinating several masterclasses, adjudicating, and serving on 57(!) undergraduate and graduate recital committees. She has served on a number of dissertation committees for the string area, and has provided much service to the local community, nationally and internationally. Of note, was her role as Vice President and Board Member of the Atlantic Chamber Ensemble (Richmond, VA). The ACE is dedicated to making classical music relevant to 21st century audiences. Due to Dr. Sparr's creation of a commission consortium, the ACE earned the ASCAP award for Adventurous Programming. Additionally, the ACE received a \$30,000 grant from the Blank Foundation.

SUMMARY AND COMMITTEE VOTE:

In her Annual Faculty Reports, the Chair/Directors Assessment gave Dr. Sparr all EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS in all categories, with two FAR EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS, and one MEETS EXPECTATIONS. Dr. Sparr is a supportive colleague, artist, and pedagogue of high distinction. Her retention and promotion are crucial for the growth of the string program at the Texas Tech University School of Music.

The committee vote:

For tenure 5 ; Against tenure 0

For promotion to Associate Professor 5 ; against promotion 0

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Morton, Chair Mark Morton

Anne Chalex Boyle anne Boyle

Carolyn Cruse Carolyn Cruse

John Gilbert John Gilbert

David Shea David Shea