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Tenure/Promotion Committee
School of Music
Texas Tech University
P.O. Box 42033
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June 14, 2018

Dear Tenure/Promotion Committee:

It is my great pleasure to evaluate Dr. Andrew Stetson's application for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the Texas Tech University. I met Dr. Stetson approximately four years ago through his teacher at the time, Dr. Eric Berlin. I have since worked with Dr. Stetson on International Trumpet Guild business, generally on projects stemming from his positions as website employment editor, and Social Media Committee member. I have also heard his, and his students' performances at various International Trumpet Guild and National Trumpet Competition venues.

I have enjoyed seeing (and hearing) the materials in Dr. Stetson's file, which indicates outstanding creative activity and superb teaching effectiveness. What Dr. Stetson has accomplished individually through creative activity, and with his studio, since his 2013 TTU appointment is impressive, significant, and brilliantly focused on the skills students need today. Dr. Stetson is a very accomplished trumpet player, and he is more comfortable than most of us with the technological skills needed to present his musical and pedagogical concepts.

I will first address Dr. Stetson's creative ability. He is a versatile, strong player with very solid fundamentals, who appears relaxed and comfortable onstage. His focus currently seems to be on new music, and he is actively commissioning and performing the music of upcoming composers (Robert Luther, Michael Mikulka, Mark Hagerty, Justin Casinghino), as well as the music of well-known composers such as James Stephenson. To be recording a James Stephenson Concerto at this early stage of Dr. Stetson's career indicates a rising significant talent, as Stephenson is probably the most sought-after composer today by leading orchestras, soloists and wind ensembles. The remainder of his soon-to-be released CD showcases another valuable recent concerto by Mikulka, Stetson's transcription of four Charles Ives songs, and a trumpet and electronic piece Justin Casinghino "...and so then I threw the stone."

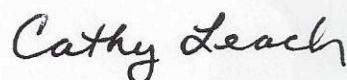
Beyond his solo work Dr. Stetson maintains an active schedule as an orchestral trumpet player. Knowledge of orchestral sound, style, and tradition is important for a trumpet teacher. The only way to learn those skills is through consistent playing in good orchestras. Dr. Stetson has this experience through his work with the Albany and Lubbock Symphonies, Colorado Music Festival, and the Boston Philharmonic.

In the Teaching realm Dr. Stetson exudes competence and success. His students are competitive as soloists and as ensembles at the National Trumpet Competition, and he has sent a finalist to the very prestigious International Trumpet Guild Ellsworth Smith Competition. His teaching philosophy appears to resonate exceptionally well with students, as is indicated by student evaluations and the success of his studio. Especially notable are Dr. Stetson's effectiveness in creating studio-wide motivation to learn, both inside and outside of university settings, and his creative use of social media with his studio. Having just attended Dr. Stetson's ITG presentation "Unlocking the Teaching and Recruiting Power of Social Media" at the 2018 International Trumpet Guild Conference in San Antonio, TX, I can attest that Dr. Stetson is viewed as a leader in the applied studio teaching field, by students and by faculty colleagues.

Also noteworthy are the long list of masterclasses and clinics that Dr. Stetson has given at high schools and universities. His topics range from masterclasses on solo and orchestral repertoire, to trumpet technique, to social media usage, to how to generate successful college applications. His sessions at venues like the University of Utah, the University of Massachusetts, Tarleton State University, Eastern Washington University, and the Tanglewood Institute, indicate that he is in demand as a speaker/teacher.

In summary this tenure/promotion file reveals an outstanding trumpet player, and an innovative, effective teacher. It points to continuing success in creative activity, collegial efforts, and teaching. Realizing that my job here does not include recommendations on course of action I will simply state that Dr. Stetson's file is outstanding, and would merit promotion and tenure at any institution I can imagine. He has many musical and pedagogical accomplishments to his credit during the past five years, and I feel certain that his future work will be equally original and important to the field of music.

Sincerely yours,



Cathy Leach
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The University of Tennessee School of Music
President, International Trumpet Guild