



**SHENANDOAH**<sup>TM</sup>  
U N I V E R S I T Y  
Shenandoah Conservatory



November 1, 2016

Dear Dr. Bloss and members of the Faculty Evaluation Committee,

I am delighted to offer my full endorsement of **Prof. Adam Olson** for promotion to Associate Professor. As his portfolio reveals, and as Conservatory Faculty Evaluation Committee affirms, Prof. Olson has more than met the criteria in our Faculty Handbook for that promotion.

With his extraordinary regard for students, and his consistently caring and thoughtful approach, it is not surprising that Prof. Olson stands out among music area students as one of the most cherished of our faculty. Importantly, his knowledge and expertise has made him a highly sought after expert within his discipline, and his numerous invitations to teach and present within the top levels of the recording industry are just further testament to his leadership role within the field of recording technology instruction.

In the area of scholarship, Prof. Olson (whose area of expertise and creative scholarship is as sound engineer and recording technology expert) has quickly gained a national profile, with repeated and acclaimed success in helping to engineer or produce recordings of significance. As a speaker and presenter, he has been invited and accepted into multiple peer reviewed national-level conferences and events. While it was a small thing, I was not surprised to see that his skills as teacher and prominence in his professional field supported him being included in a wonderful list of "15 Outstanding Professors Every Audio Enthusiast Should Know." While his teaching load remains exceptionally heavy, he has found a way to be active in the field at the highest levels, earning accolades for his recording work.

Prof. Olson remains one of the most sought-after members of Conservatory committees. Beyond being exceptionally invested in his students, program, and school, he has also been enthusiastic to engage with the broader University within multiple committees. Always ready to give his colleagues and students extra time, Prof. Olson stands as one of the exemplars of collegial work and values.

I affirm that Prof. Olson more than meets the criteria for promotion to Associate Professor, and offer my hearty endorsement for his receipt of that honor.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Stepniak, Dean & Professor of Music  
Shenandoah Conservatory