

July 21, 2023

Dr. Andrew Stetson, Director
School of Music
Texas Tech University
Box 42033
Lubbock, TX 79409

Dear Dr. Stetson,

It is my pleasure to serve as an external evaluator of Annie Chalex-Boyles' application for promotion to Full Professor at the Texas Tech University School of Music. Although I know of Ms. Chalex-Boyles' teaching and performing by reputation, I do not know her personally and have only briefly met her once.

According to Texas Tech University's Operating Policy and Procedure manual for promotion to Professor, "the candidate's academic achievement and professional reputation should be superior and should have resulted in national and/or international recognition." This is clearly demonstrated in Ms. Chalex-Boyles' portfolio. The breadth and depth of her creative activities give evidence of a high-level performer who maintains both a national and international presence. Since 2018 (and despite a world-wide pandemic that effectively shut down live performances for over a year), she performed dozens of concerts and/or presented master classes in nine states throughout the US (NY, CO, AR, OK, IL, MI, IA, OH, and extensively throughout Texas) and four countries (Italy, Chile, Brazil, and Costa Rica). The majority of her US performing is collaborative, with chamber music partners ranging from principal players of orchestras to music faculty from around the country. Of particular note is her partnership with pianist David Palmer, with whom she produced a recording for release this year on the reputable Centaur Records label and that will undoubtedly further her reputation and visibility. Additionally, she is active in summer festivals, participating in the Hot Springs, Hampton, and her own Lake City Music Festivals in the US and the Orfeo International Music Festival in Italy, which allows her to intersect and collaborate with an impressive international faculty. These performance activities, and the fact that she has been invited back by many of the organizations repeatedly, attest to Ms. Chalex-Boyles' high level of playing and collaborative personality.

In Ms. Chalex-Boyles' Research/Creative Scholarship statement, she writes:

"Through my performances, masterclasses, and recordings, I am attempting to preserve and further develop the cultural tradition of classical music, creating more community-based experiences and enabling collaboration."


Her portfolio is a testimony to this intention, detailing activities that carry a far greater impact and legacy in the music world beyond simply performing concerts. She founded the Durations Trio with Kevin Wass, tuba and Susan Wass, piano, which introduces a unique chamber music medium both through commissioning projects to create repertoire as well as high visibility performances at the International Tuba Euphonium Convention and the Texas MEAC to champion the new medium. In 2015 she founded the week-long Lake City String Academy in a rural area of Colorado which would otherwise not have access to live classical music, and continues to serve as its artistic director. She is an enthusiastic champion of contemporary music, active in both commissioning and performing works by living as well

as under-represented composers. Not only did she perform two concerti in the last year, but both were written in the last 25 years: The Red Violin Concerto with the Lubbock Symphony and Desyatnikov's arrangement of Piazzolla's Las Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas with the American Sinfonietta.

In addition to her substantive national and international activities, Ms. Chalex-Boyles' contributions to TTU and the greater Lubbock community are commendable and meaningful. She serves as Concertmaster of the Lubbock Symphony which affords her the opportunity to collaborate with a roster of internationally renowned concert artists such as violinist Chee-Yun and pianist Adam Golka. This position also provides her orchestral leadership experience and expertise which in turn informs her teaching, enriching the education of her students and the program at TTU. She also leads numerous master classes for local and regional secondary programs. Not only do these activities make a significant impact on the musical life of the local community but they build strong relationships between Ms. Chalex-Boyles and area teachers, which is essential to the success of a university music program. The fact that she has twice been recently recognized by the leading string industry organization ASTA (American String Teachers Association), first by being selected as a judge for their national solo competition as well as awarded the 2023 Texas ASTA Studio Teacher of the Year, is further evidence of her excellent record as a pedagogue. But the most persuasive evidence of all may be found in the strength of her violin studio. In regards to both quality and quantity, Ms. Chalex-Boyles' studio is not only competitive and globally diverse but of the highest level, as is well documented through a lengthy and impressive list of individual student accomplishments in her portfolio.

Reading Ms. Chalex-Boyles' materials confirmed what I already knew by her reputation—she is indeed an excellent violinist, musician, and teacher. It was a pleasure to review her portfolio and if I may be of any additional help in this important process, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



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