

Christopher Merz

To the Faculty Senate, UNI:

It hardly seems necessary to write in support of Bob Washut's application for Emeritus status. He is precisely the kind of person for whom this status was created. He has done more to enhance the reputation of our institution nationwide (and even worldwide) than any other single person I can think of. He is universally admired by all who come into contact with him: students, faculty, and members of the wider community. He routinely engages students throughout the country through his work as a clinician and guest composer/conductor. He maintains a high profile as a composer and performer across many idioms. Known primarily as a jazz composer, he has of late completed commissions that fall more in the contemporary classical idiom, further widening his field. Within the musical community, Bob's name is synonymous with UNI.

On a personal note, Bob is entirely responsible for my being here. He recruited me as a faculty member, and supported me as a mentor since my arrival in 2000. I can never repay that debt, but I hope that this letter in support of his application for Emeritus status will be a small balance on that side of the ledger. Bob is a remarkable educator, artist, person, and friend. I cannot support him enthusiastically enough.

Sincerely,

Christopher Merz

Director of Jazz Studies

UNI