

**Faculty Review and Evaluation  
Division of Music  
Calendar Year 2021**

**FACULTY SELF-EVALUATION**

**Name: Michael Lively**

***Teaching***

My teaching load for the Spring semester of 2021 was 11.666 and my teaching load for the Fall semester of 2021 was also 11.666.

Course evaluations in the Spring semester were favorable with an average score to all questions of 4.65 for MUTH 1230 (response rate of 90.91%), 4.77 for MUTH 2230 (response rate of 75.00%), 4.85 for MUTH 4300 (response rate of 80.00%), and 5.00 for MUTH 5250 (individual instruction for one student). The departmental average score to all questions was 4.53 and the school average score to all questions was 4.48. It should be noted that accurate data for MUTH 1130 cannot be provided, because I was erroneously listed as the instructor for all sections of MUTH 1130, although I was responsible for teaching only part of one section, within a “team teaching” format. The data for MUTH 6300 is also skewed because one student (and only one student) chose to answer “strongly disagree” (1) for all questions.

Representative comments on the student evaluations from the Spring semester would include (MUTH 4300): “Dr. Lively is one of the only instructors I have had that successfully encourages equal participation from Zoom and in-person students. Most other instructors either ignore the Zoom students or give them less accountability for participation. Dr. Lively makes sure that everyone on Zoom is actively engaging in the class. Dr. Lively has been great at adapting to all the catastrophes of this school year, and has given us ample flexibility without compromising his teaching and his standards. I really appreciated the ‘1-week grace period,’ as it has been extremely difficult for me to stay on top of everything this semester. I really enjoyed the composition assignments. I felt that they gave us the opportunity to creatively apply the skills we learned in class. Dr. Lively is consistently interesting, engaging, encouraging, and inspiring. He is clearly passionate and knowledgeable, and he makes complex topics easy to understand.”

Course evaluations in the Fall semester were favorable with an average score to all questions of 4.50 for MUTH 1301 (response rate of 85.71%), 4.50 for MUTH 1129 (response rate of 92.31%), 4.70 for MUTH 2229 (response rate of 100.00%), 4.75 for MUTH 3500 (response rate of 66.67%), and 5.00 for MUTH 5250 (individual instruction for one student). The departmental average score to all questions was 4.49 and the school average score to all questions was 4.40. During the Fall semester I taught two classes (MUTH 1301 and MUTH 3350) that are part of the Common Curriculum and one class (MUTH 3350) that was associated with the SMU Libraries Information Literacy Stipend Award.

Representative comments on the student evaluations from the Fall semester would include (MUTH 2229): “This is by far the best theory section. While it is not self paced, everyone gets individual attention as we all took turns answering questions. Dr. Lively keeps everyone engaged and sets clear

expectations. Its clear that he cares about our learning more than anything else. Having the outline on the syllabus was extremely helpful- I referred to it several times in the semester.”

### ***Creative Activity, Research, and/or Other Scholarly Output***

Having recently published four (4) peer reviewed journal articles, I focused during 2021 on completing new research and revising some previously unpublished articles. A new research topic, the analysis of the music of Florence Beatrice Price, an important African American woman composer from the early twentieth century, has resulted in the completion of an article “Multi-Linear Continuity and ‘Songs to the Dark Virgin’ by Florence Price,” which was submitted to the journal *Music Theory Spectrum* (the journal of the Society for Music Theory) during 2021. A presentation based upon the article has been accepted for the 2022 South-Central Regional Convention of the College Music Society (March 12, East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma) and is currently under consideration for the 2022 national conference of the Society for Music Theory. Another article completed in 2021, “Once More Between Story and Discourse: The Rhetoric of Musicological Narrativity,” is under consideration for publication in the journal *Current Musicology*.

### ***Service***

During 2021, I served as a member of the Selection Committee for the Director of the Music Division and I continued to serve as a member of the Meadows Academic Policy Committee. I was also a member of the committee for two (2) graduate-level guitar recitals in the Fall semester. In the Spring semester, I submitted a successful proposal, with the assistance of Dr. Mark Feezell, for the Form and Analysis class (MUTH 3350) to be included within the Common Curriculum (Writing in the Major). During the summer of 2021, I submitted a successful application, with the assistance of music librarian Pamela Pagels, for the SMU Libraries Information Literacy Stipend Award.

### ***Summary***

The calendar year 2021 was a difficult year for classroom teachers, primarily because of the continuing Covid pandemic and the associated restrictions and requirements placed upon instructors at SMU and other academic institutions. The most significant problems that I experienced during 2021 related to the almost continuously malfunctioning technology in the classrooms and the frequent fire alarms in the Owen Arts Center. The Spring semester also included, of course, the shutdown of the university during the snowstorm in February. Despite the challenges, I continued to focus upon delivering the highest possible quality of instruction to the students of the university, as well as maintaining my research activities and continuing service to the university, the department, and the community.

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**DEPARTMENT CHAIR RESPONSE and COMMENTARY**

**Department Chair: Mark Feezell**

Michael Lively is a caring, proficient pedagogue who puts the needs of his students above his own. He is always willing to add private musicianship students, even when already teaching 4 or even 5 courses. His students love him, as evidenced by their many positive comments and consistently high ratings. His teaching style always focuses on music making and engagement with real music, and in this regard I consider him to be somewhat of a mentor. For example, it is common to hear him starting his musicianship courses with the group singing of an actual chorale, and his theory courses similarly focus on music making within the style studied – be it through 4-part musical compositions in the eighteenth-century style or 12-tone serial compositions in contemporary analysis. It is this focus on the music, combined with his affable tone and generous demeanor, that I believe yields his great success as a music theory educator.

Although lecturers are technically not evaluated on research, I would also like to acknowledge with gratefulness Michael’s commitment to continue to research and even publish analytical insights. This can only improve the stature of the Division over time. In addition, Michael has served in multiple administrative roles within 2021, not least of which is his vital service on the search committee for our new Director.

Finally, although it is technically in the 2022 school year, it is important to note that Michael has agreed this semester to take on an extra course (he is now teaching 5 *different courses*, not sections, plus 2 private students, for a load of 15 hours) *without* extra pay or load reduction. No other colleague has taken this high of a load this semester, and without Michael the release for Dr. Xi would simply not have been possible. In light of this, in my view, it would not be unreasonable for Michael to take the largest share of whatever merit pay may be available within our department.

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**Director ad interim COMMENTARY & SUMMARY EVALUATION**

**Director ad interim: Kevin Paul Hofeditz**

I concur with Dr. Feezell’s thorough and comprehensive evaluation of Dr. Lively’s impressive work in 2021 as a member of the Division of Music faculty.

It is clear that—even in difficult times—Dr. Lively’s instruction was highly effective. Our students have benefitted greatly from being in his classes.

Very good work.

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**Faculty Signature indicating receipt of review document;  
Faculty may submit an optional response.**

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**Date**