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Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member Award Citation for Rebecca Perry

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2021 AWARD FOR EXCELLENT TEACHING BY AN EARLY CAREER FACULTY MEMBER

Rebecca Perry

For many young musicians, Music Theory is a bit like spinach: there's no question that it's good for you, but while some immediately take a liking to it, others need time, and a bit of culinary creativity, to appreciate its virtues. Becky, since coming to Lawrence in 2017, you have excelled in helping students to develop a taste for the often challenging, but always nourishing, work of theoretical musical analysis.

Students express profound gratitude for your patience and willingness to meet them where they are and travel with them on the road to understanding. "Rebecca Perry ... is one of the best educators I've ever had the pleasure to learn from," one student observes. "She breaks down daunting concepts into a set of skills that anyone can learn and master. She constantly asks our class for feedback and adjusts her approach to different topics based on what we have to say." Writes another, "it is difficult to overstate the impact that Professor Perry had on my entire class. ... She has a unique ability to present complex topics in ways that make it incredibly easy to become fluent in them." In addition to

this ability to make challenging material understandable, students appreciate the expansive reach of your pedagogical range. "She values diversity in her pedagogy by highlighting the works of underrepresented composers," notes a student, "and she pushes us to expand our theory knowledge beyond the classical world by applying our skills" to music from a variety of traditions.

Last, but by no means least, your students know that you care about them, and about their welfare. "As a trans student, I felt respected in her class," a student notes, "and I always felt comfortable bringing issues to her attention because she treats her students like intelligent, adult equals and does everything in her power to support their learning in a safe environment."

Becky, I am delighted to formally recognize the warm appreciation of your students by presenting you with the 2021 Award for Excellent Teaching by an Early Career Faculty Member.

June 2021