

Application Summary

Competition Details

Competition Title:	2019 CTL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award
Category:	Institutional Awards - CTL
Award Cycle:	2019
Submission Deadline:	02/01/2019 at 6:00 PM

Application Information

Submitted By:	Chaowen Ting
Application ID:	3063
Application Title:	Ting, Chaowen-SOM
Date Submitted:	02/01/2019 at 2:41 PM

Personal Details

Applicant First Name:	Chaowen
Applicant Last Name:	Ting
Email Address:	cting7@gatech.edu
Phone Number:	(404) 894-8974

Primary School or Department

School of Music

Primary Appointment Title:	Assistant Professor
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Application Details

Proposal Title

Ting, Chaowen-SOM

January 30, 2019

Dr. Joyce Weinsheimer
Center for Teaching and Learning

Dear Joyce and members of the selection committee,

On behalf of the School of Music, it is with great enthusiasm and pride that I nominate my colleague, Assistant Professor Chaowen Ting, for the CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. I have worked with Chaowen for ~5 years as a colleague and collaborator on numerous projects and events. Since arriving at Georgia Tech in 2014, Dr. Ting has reinvented and invigorated an Orchestral Program that now boasts one of the largest memberships of any institution in the Southeast. I am thrilled that she will be considered for this award and I like to expound upon a few aspects of what makes Dr. Ting so worthy of this award.

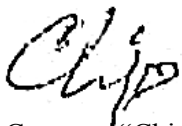
Chaowen is extremely dedicated and passionate about orchestral music and sharing it with our students at Georgia Tech. Her programs are quite diverse and she does a remarkable job of combining the education of her students with the education of her audiences. Dr. Ting is a champion of new music and shifting the paradigm of what is possible with music in combination with technology. By taking full advantage of the technological advances available at our fingertips at Georgia Tech and using them in a creative way, she has recreated what is possible within this genre of music. In this aspect, she continues to create a unique brand for her program at Georgia Tech.

Chaowen also highly values the student education and aims to provide unique ways to incorporate this within her own teaching. By presenting concerto competitions, unique student directorships and her leadership training, these provide a higher level of integration and interaction with students at all levels. It is not uncommon for the students in her ensembles to serve as leaders in their fields across campus and this combination of technical training and the creativity her ensembles provide is invaluable to the complete Georgia Tech student experience.

In the professional conducting world, Chaowen is respected and acclaimed as an “up and coming” conductor across the globe. She has conducted and directed major orchestras across the United States, Europe and Asia, to great reviews and success. These professional and creative opportunities continue to inform her passion for education and her ability to use them as teaching tools. I have found that it is rare at an Institution such as Georgia Tech to create a true healthy balance between the research, professional, service and teaching elements of our positions. Dr. Ting has found that that sought after balance and maneuvers through it in a most positive and professional manner.

Chaowen is extremely dedicated to the mission of Georgia Tech and serves as one of our greatest examples as a teacher and professional. Understanding what the CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Award stands for, I think you will find no greater example of its worthiness than Dr. Chaowen Ting. At every turn, she exemplifies leadership through her teaching, mentorship and service to the profession. Dr. Ting is highly deserving of this award and I hope she will receive your most sincere and serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Cameron “Chip” Crofts
Professor of the Practice
Director of Jazz Studies
chip.crofts@music.gatech.edu

School of Music
Georgia Institute of Technology
840 McMillan St.
Atlanta, GA 30332

Dr. Chaowen Ting

Reflective Teaching Statement

I still remember the day when I interviewed at Georgia Tech for my current position. After conducting the orchestra, we had 15 minutes of students Q&A. The first question asked was: Why do you want to come to Georgia Tech instead some famous music school? My answer was: Because I was one of you.

I studied Financial and Economic Laws at the best university in my country for my bachelor degree. After graduation, I worked as Assistant Researcher for an international trade and health law research center for two years before switching my career to music. I was one of those students sitting in music ensembles on Georgia Tech campus – trying so hard to balance life and school while struggling to adult and find one’s own path. This statement stays with me as an educator. I strive to prepare my students to enter the professional world beyond college, while allowing and encouraging these young adults to explore the world outside of classrooms and to grow at their own paces. They might not remember much of the materials taught in classes, but would benefit from skills and life lessons learned during this critical time.

Critical Thinking

On students’ intellectual development, I am a strong believer that the core of higher education is critical thinking. I was privileged and trained to be a sharper thinker in Law School, and this is what I want to pass onto my students. I cannot force students to learn, but I can foster their curiosity and encourage them to see the various perspectives other than theirs. In all courses that I taught, whether ensemble directing or academic curriculum, I diligently combine theory with application by leading students to question and think why each decision was made. I engage students with the historical and societal context of each composition, examine the theoretical framework of interpretational choices with the class, and include students in repertoire selections. Students need to take ownership of their leaning and educational experience, and to understand that critical thinking applies in every discipline – artistic decisions are made not only upon one’s feeling about the art, but also based on a deep understanding of the compositional background, the style of a certain era, the contemporary aesthetic trend, and modern technology influence.

Time Management

In my classrooms, I emphasize time management skills greatly. The ability to prioritize tasks and to utilize time to maximize one’s productivity is the key to developing the sense of responsibility and self-discipline. Ensemble participants are allowed two “no-question-asked” absences that they should use wisely. In circumstances where students needed extra time to catch up, I meet with them individually to make accommodating plans, and to follow through the progress. In academic classes, I require progress reports for all assignments. This allows me to intervene early as needed, and to help students develop the skills of organizing time and resources over a larger project.

Self-Development

On the personal level, the time when students spend in colleges is a critical moment for them to mature and develop before entering the “real world.” Perhaps even more important than being a critical thinker, I believe that college life is when everyone learns to understand and accept oneself, and to define the relationship one has with the surroundings. It is no easy task – to embrace oneself as who one is, to take

Dr. Chaowen Ting
Reflective Teaching Statement

pride in one's strengths while not shying away from one's weakness, to know how and where to place oneself in any group, and to interact with the mini societies that people form. By sharing composers' biographical sketches, students not only learn the musical materials, but understand that people experience difficulties of all kinds, and there is a way to express those emotions and one's vulnerability through musical and artistic expressions. My mantra is that we are human beings first; musicians second. Students' wellbeing is my top priority: I pay a close attention to students not doing well or falling behind in class, making sure that they are getting all the help that they need.

Representative CIOS Comments

MUSI 3611 CO: Chamber Orchestra

- She really cares about her students and it shows; I really appreciate how understanding she is. She is also a fantastic conductor who can keep control in the orchestra and make it produce a great sound.
- I had a ton of fun and learned about a lot of little details about how an orchestra works.
- Dr. Ting knows that at Tech, student instrumentalists are looking to decompress from hours of math and science. She makes rehearsals fun as we get to explore some amazing music. Thanks for inspiring us every day through music!
- She was funny, down to earth, and knew how to befriend the students while also being stern about the music.
- I can definitely tell that Dr. Ting cares about her students- from their love of music, to their general wellbeing. I really appreciate that!

MUSI 3611 SO: Symphony Orchestra

- Dr. Ting is very knowledgeable in music and has a lot to share. She genuinely wants GTSO to succeed, which is a nice thing to see in a tech-focused school. I come from an intense youth orchestra background, and it is rewarding to have a conductor that is not apathetic.
- Dr. Ting was very personable and approachable. She provided good resources for students to practice our parts. She was also available to meet during the week if need be, and she understood the importance of academic classes as well.
- Love the quick music history lesson whenever we learned a new song. I didn't really know a ton about different music styles before this semester or else had forgotten all of it.
- It is apparent through her conducting that Dr. Ting is enthusiastic about the art of music, and frequently conveys that to her students.
- Dr. Ting is a great fit for the orchestra program. Her expectations are in line with the mindset of the typical GT student in orchestra. She chooses fun and ambitious repertoire and does a good job mixing interesting historical and musical details into rehearsals. She is very accessible and clearly cares about the well-being of her students.
- Dr. Ting picks good repertoire that demand a wide variety of styles and interpretation. The music is also technically challenging and rewarding.

January 27, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as chair of the School of Music in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Chaowen Ting for the CTL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Ting is an innovative and passionate educator whose work is particularly impactful to the School and the Institute across three dimensions: interdisciplinarity, diversity, and public impact. I will now address each of these dimensions in turn.

Interdisciplinarity

As director of orchestral studies, Dr. Ting leads two courses focused on musical performance that carry the humanities attribute and draw students from every college and major on campus. Student enrollment in these courses during the 2018-2019 academic year totaled 189 students.

Dr. Ting embraces the multidisciplinary academic backgrounds of the students in these courses by expanding the scope of the orchestra's reach well beyond the traditional orchestral repertoire. In addition to learning standard repertoire, Dr. Ting's students premiere new works commissioned specifically for the orchestra and work with those living composers on the preparation of their scores. They collaborate with artists in other fields (such as dance). And they work with scientists and engineers to present work inspired by STEM fields. The most impressive example of such methods was manifest in the first project of the fall 2018 semester: a collaboration with the School of Mathematics, College of Sciences, a local composer, and a local dance troupe to create and premiere a new work inspired by the classic graph theory problem of the seven bridges of Königsberg. The work was designed for – and performed at – the new plaza on campus that is inspired by the same mathematical source. Endeavors such as these help reinforce an essential educational goal for the Institute: to challenge students to internalize the fundamental ways in which creative activities are informed by, and in turn inform, the core skills, ideas, and practices across a range of other disciplines.

Dr. Ting also teaches core courses in our new BS degree in music technology, a degree program that embraces the inherent interdisciplinarity of this emerging field. In her Project Studio: Analysis course in fall 2018, her unique approaches combined musicology, music theory, experimental design, data analysis, and gender studies and encouraged students to develop research questions and methodologies that spanned across these areas.

School of Music
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia 30332
music.gatech.edu

Diversity

Women have long been under-represented in the fields of orchestral conducting and orchestral composition. Through her teaching, Dr. Ting both raises awareness in her students of these issues and works with them on strategies to address them. In her orchestral courses, she has been active in commissioning new works for leading women composers: this has given students an opportunity to premiere new works by women and to work with them as they prepare the music in class. Dr. Ting also designed her fall 2018 Project Studio: Analysis course for our music technology majors around questions of diversity and implicit bias, working with students on projects that proposed and evaluated strategies to address underrepresentation.

Public Impact

The orchestral courses that Dr. Ting teaches are more than academic courses: they are performing musical ensembles whose public performances have raised the profile of Georgia Tech as a center for cultural innovation. The orchestras' regular performances at the Ferst Center for the Arts, elsewhere around campus, and at off-campus venues draw thousands of attendees over the course of each academic year, magnifying the reach of her innovative teaching practices well beyond the classroom.

The impressive scope of Dr. Ting's innovative teaching activities span orchestral courses that draw students from the entire campus to courses for music technology majors, and include practices addressing interdisciplinarity, diversity, and public impact. The collective impact of these activities on her students, our campus, the broader community, and the field make her a compelling candidate for the CTL/BP award. I urge you to give her strongest consideration for this honor.

Sincerely,



Jason Freeman
Professor & Chair



GEORGIA INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY
College of Architecture
School of Music

Jerry Ulrich
Director of Choral Activities
Associate Professor of Music

31 January 2019

I am nominating School of Music Assistant Professor **Chaowen Ting** for the CTL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. I have known Chaowen for the past five years as a colleague and conductor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where I serve as Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities. I first encountered Chaowen's name as search committee chair seeking to fill the position of orchestra director at Georgia Tech. In reviewing the numerous qualified candidates, Chaowen's name stood apart from the rest.

After five years in her position as orchestral director, Chaowen has become an invaluable member of the GT School of Music faculty. She inherited a struggling program with diminished morale and less-than-stellar performance standards. In less than one year, the musical growth in the orchestra was nothing short of astonishing. The *esprit de corps* she has fostered within the membership is exemplary. The quality of playing has notably improved. Additionally, the loyalty and commitment of the members towards the common goal of excellence is abundantly clear.

Chaowen is a gifted and inspirational teacher. Her patient, persistent, and caring approach to the podium and rehearsals produces well-crafted and superbly trained players and musicians. She has a robust understanding of musical styles and orchestral repertoire. Chaowen is skilled at working with both the "non-music major" student we have here at Tech, and the gifted performance major at a conservatory institution. She excels at teaching students from across the spectrum of ability. Her organizational ability allows her to accomplish the myriad tasks of running a large instrumental ensemble with ease and efficiency. Over the past five years, the maturity and growth in the GT Symphony Orchestra in both quantity and quality has been unparalleled. When she arrived, the orchestra was playing three concerts per year. It is now offering five to eight performances per year. The Chamber Orchestra, which began as only strings, now includes the full complement of winds as well. The repertoire of the orchestra has significantly expanded to include major works from the standard repertoire and contemporary pieces.

Chaowen combines her teaching with research, actively commissioning and performing works by female composers. She is an advocate for modern music, and has hosted composers in residence on the GT campus. She is a model collaborator, utilizing members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as coaches. She has combined the orchestra with all the choral ensembles, as well as with the band and chamber groups. She has tutored students in the School of Music and beyond, and has allowed budding young student-composers to hear their works performed by the orchestra.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention that Chaowen is a person of marvelous character and uncompromising professional demeanor. She is consistent, caring, loyal, trustworthy, and a "team player." She is a person I am proud to call a colleague and friend. I am delighted to offer her my unqualified support without reservation. I can think of no person more deserving of this award!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jerry Ulrich
Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities
julrich@gatech.edu

School of Music– 840 McMillan Street – Atlanta, GA 30332.0456 - 404.894.8992

January 30th, 2019

Selection Committee
CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award
Georgia Institute of Technology

Dear selection committee,

I have the pleasure of writing to you to recommend Chaowen Ting, Director of Orchestral Studies at the Georgia Tech School of Music, as a candidate for the 2019 CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. Dr. Ting has been the head of almost all of the ensembles I participated in since my very first week of college. I've had the opportunity to see her teaching and leadership skills first hand in Chamber Orchestra (MUSI 3402) and Symphony Orchestra (MUSI 3611) and have had many one-on-one interactions with her that make me incredibly proud to recommend her for this award. It is obvious that Dr. Ting's passion for music and concern for her students goes beyond the surface level.

Out of all of my educational experience at Georgia Tech, Dr. Ting stands out to me as a professor who is incredibly passionate about giving students exciting, real-world experiences. Over the years she has gone beyond the standard expectations of an orchestra director which has led to extraordinary experiences for her students. Thanks to Dr. Ting, the Georgia Tech Symphony Orchestra was able to play groundbreaking, never-before-played pieces with the composers present, including names like Marshall Coats and GT alum Roland Duvvury. In addition to debuting new pieces, Dr. Ting makes great effort to bring in talented soloists for the ensemble to accompany. These soloists inspire me and other students to continue improving in our musical skill and show us real examples of musicians being successful in today's world. Never before have I seen a professor so excited to have students participate in the up-and-coming local and global music scenes. Being exposed to such broad and beautiful talent has shaped how I view the world and will have a lasting impact on my life beyond the classroom.

It is not often that orchestra directors are able to facilitate insightful discussion in rehearsal about the music students are playing. I have learned many life lessons through Dr. Ting and through her music selection that I will carry with me for a long time. Instead of talking at students, Dr. Ting engages with students on a personal and emotional level. It is very evident that the connections she creates lead to excellent performance and a deeper understanding of the arts. Dr. Ting has a unique ability to encourage students to produce the emotions the composer was feeling when writing the music as they play their parts. Because of her, our rehearsal hall is a place where students feel safe experiencing emotions like loss, joy, and fear through music in a healthy way.

The biggest reason I am writing to recommend Dr. Ting for this award is that she has a legitimate interest in the welfare of her students. In many of my darkest moments at Georgia Tech, Dr. Ting has been there for me in ways other professors don't take the time to be. While she always pushes us to strive for excellence in and out of the classroom, Dr. Ting is always quick to ensure that her students are taking care of themselves and prioritizing their health and happiness over anything school related. I will be the first to say that I have not been the most dependable student she has taught. However, instead of punishing me in my grades and leaving it to me to improve alone she took me aside and asked if anything was wrong. This gesture still means so much to me. I was at a place in my life where I felt very lonely and had very few people to turn to. The fact that Dr. Ting took time out of her day to make sure I had all the support I needed is not something I will soon forget. Professors like this are what Georgia Tech needs more of. I hope that recommending Dr. Ting for this award gives her the stage she deserves to share with other professors how to be actively engaged in the health and wellness of their students. Actions like this are very important in the current Georgia Tech climate and, if continued, will make a difference in the lives of many students.

Dr. Ting has made a lasting impression on my Georgia Tech experience. She is an excellent teacher, a joy to learn from, and constantly shows her passion for her students. It is clear in every interaction she has with her students that she takes a vested interest in their lives and wellbeing. It is for these reasons that I wholeheartedly support her nomination for the 2019 CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah A. Storer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sarah A. Storer
Computer Science, Class of 2019

To whom it may concern,

When I first came to campus in August of 2015, I was afraid that Tech, as a very STEM-focused school, may not have the opportunities to support and develop my artistic interests. You see, I have played the flute since the third grade, and I wanted to continue to practice and advance my skills. I auditioned for Georgia Tech Symphony Orchestra (or GTSO) the very first week of first-year classes and I have been embraced into Tech's musical family ever since.

Dr. Ting is one of the hidden gems of Georgia Tech faculty. She oversees a program that has flourished under her leadership. The experiences and joy I have gotten from GTSO and other musical opportunities have challenged my growth as a musician, and I am certain that other students share my opinion. Dr. Ting carefully curates programs each semester that exposes us to a unique mix of repertoire: from the classical orchestral pieces of Beethoven to more contemporary numbers featuring guest instrumentalists, there is always something for every student to learn. I have played with choirs in churches, coordinated with voice actors, performed with both band and orchestras of varying instrumentation— a lot of which I did not experience before coming to Georgia Tech. Dr. Ting values dedication and will always make accommodations for students who want to perform, whether that is special rehearsal arrangements or additional musical opportunities outside of classes.

Two particularly impactful instances among countless others come to mind for how Dr. Ting has personally expanded my horizons: one intellectual and one emotional.

As an Industrial and Systems Engineering student, I have had to work with a lot of data and data analysis, but I never would imagine applying my skillset towards music as well. I worked on a research of the relationship between the gender of conductor and composer my sophomore year summer with Dr. Ting. After carefully running some numbers, we found some interesting trends which opened my mind to the effects that personal experience and creativity had on a composer's work and a conductor's choice to perform it. The humanization of the little black dots and lines on a sheet of paper allows me to better breathe life into the artistic visions of each piece and has broadened my understanding of music beyond the notes.

The second memory I have is sitting on stage, listening to Dr. Ting introduce one of our final performance pieces to the audience. She explained that she had chosen that composer's work because he was one of her conducting mentors and one of the first people to believe in her desire to pursue music and conduct. Her voice wavered in a moment of raw honesty and emotion as she fought back tears. To see someone with such an established career still face the same doubts that I have, especially coming from the same race and cultural background, inspires me to keep practicing and doing what I love.

Dr. Ting exudes the same passion and transparency like that day on stage every day in rehearsal. She greets each student with a giant grin in and outside of class and cracks wry jokes to remind us to keep practicing (as she says, "concerts are just crisis management!") and bring us down to earth. She is a model for other faculty members in the dedication and love for her craft. Georgia Tech is lucky to have her, and I am even luckier to be able to say that I fully support her nomination to the CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.

Sincerely,

Rachel Zhu

rzhu45@gatech.edu | (678)-360-7899

School of Industrial and Systems Engineering

Zeya Luo
144 Moreland Ave NE
Unit 440
Atlanta, GA 30307

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in full support of Dr. Chaowen Ting and her nomination for the CTL/BP American Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. I was a student of Dr. Ting's for four years from 2014-2018 and believe that as a conductor, educator, and mentor, she exemplifies the spirit of the Teaching Excellence Award. In the time that I have known Dr. Ting, she has consistently shown skillful leadership and unwavering support for her students.

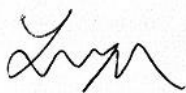
As a conductor, Dr. Ting showed a clear dedication to and mastery of the music we played. She had every piece memorized, internalizing every dynamic and shift in tempo. This confidence and assurance emanated from her podium, encouraging the orchestra. Dr. Ting often shared the historical implications of the music we played as a way of contextualizing the notes in front of us. She used anecdotes and metaphors specific to students as a way of relating our personal lives back to the music. In doing so, she guided us to play music with more emotion, pushing students to be fluid rather than robotically playing our instruments.

During my time as a student, Dr. Ting led me and my classmates through a wide variety of music. There were collaborations with the GT choirs, commissioned pieces, premiers, integrations of experimental sound and technology, soloists from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, guest conductors, and of course, classical music staples that every musician should play. Toward the end of the semester, Dr. Ting would often have the orchestra read music that fellow students had composed or allow students to try their hand at conducting. These were invaluable learning experiences for the young composers and conductors, and for the orchestra.

One of Dr. Ting's greatest strengths as a leader is recognizing and managing her students' strengths and weaknesses. Soon after joining Georgia Tech, Dr. Ting formed the Chamber Orchestra, an additional ensemble to the Symphony Orchestra. With a huge influx of string players auditioning, the creation of the Chamber Orchestra allowed for more students to be involved in the music program without putting students in over their heads. This decision embodied Dr. Ting's inclusive approach to music and her ability to meet students' needs. In her ensembles, Dr. Ting regularly rotated leadership positions, giving many students the opportunity to lead sections and allowing stronger players to bolster and mentor the backs of the sections.

I started my B.S. in Chemical Engineering at Georgia Tech in the fall semester of 2014, which was coincidentally the same semester that Dr. Ting began her career at Tech. It is because of Dr. Ting's leadership and support that I and so many other students continued to play in the orchestra semester after semester. Often overwhelmed by the rigors of STEM courses, I found that orchestra with Dr. Ting was a haven and change of pace that ultimately made me both a better musician and better student. Dr. Ting's dedication to her students and the music program make her more than deserving of the Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, and I am honored to put forth this letter of support.

Sincerely,
Zeya Luo



29 January 2019

Dear Awards Committee Member,

As a long-time member of the Georgia Tech Symphony Orchestra, I fully support Dr. Chaowen Ting for the CTL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Ting has a unique and critical role as director of the Symphony Orchestra at a school without a Music Performance degree program. Normally, at large state universities with more degree-granting programs, the symphony orchestra would be full of music majors trying to fulfill requirements. This usually contributes to a somewhat competitive atmosphere where individuals are under a significant amount of pressure to perform perfectly. The GTSO (Georgia Tech Symphony Orchestra), however is an excellent example of how a director's attitude and relations with students can build a supportive ensemble community for students to enjoy playing beautiful music.

When I first came to Georgia Tech, I was in a position similar to many others in the GTSO. I was a promising musician in high school, and seriously considered attending music school. However, engineering was something I could not live without, so I found myself at Georgia Tech. I desperately hoped I could continue my passion for music in some sort of ensemble but was concerned that a school like Tech would either 1) not have a student orchestra, or 2) have an orchestra that would require so much commitment that I would not be able to keep up with my engineering coursework.

Thankfully, I auditioned for the orchestra and found that Dr. Ting directs the GTSO as a unique ensemble perfectly positioned to fill the musical needs of the students at the Institute. As one may expect, the vast majority of orchestra members are science and engineering students trying to continue our passion for music in an enjoyable, soul-feeding way. Over the past four years of my time in the group, Dr. Ting has consistently shown that she understands this unique position of the ensemble being an artistic refuge for students in a storm of technical engineering coursework. She has grown as an educator and refined her role of musically supporting engineering students at an institute where the funding and external support of a symphony orchestra is simply not top priority.

The way Dr. Ting runs her rehearsals is something I look forward to every Tuesday and Thursday, and is the main way she is able to connect with members. She realizes that the period of time between noon and 1:15 is precious for students, and is exceptionally lenient on leaving early and arriving late to attend other classes on time. She allows us to miss 2 rehearsals a year and always advises to "save these until later in the semester" in reference to when course load inevitably increases. When course conflicts arise with concerts or dress rehearsals, she works diligently with the registrar to resolve issues and enable students to still participate. Finally, the GTSO's last concert is always scheduled around 3 weeks before the end of the semester. This graciously enables students to focus on coursework and exams in the time leading up to finals without having to worry about practice and rehearsals. All these thoughtful concessions are crucial to students being able to stay involved in orchestra while taking a heavy load of engineering coursework.

During rehearsals, Dr. Ting makes a point to make sure students learn the history and context behind each piece of music. She does this in a fun, engaging way, interjecting interesting comments about the

composer and throughout a rehearsal period. This leads to the students not only learning the piece, but also becoming well rounded, learned musicians with a broad perspective on composers and different musical trends throughout history. This informal teaching method is, in my opinion, much more effective than a more traditional classroom-based approach.

Dr. Ting frequently reaches out to the campus community to spread awareness of the GTSO and our musical repertoire. Recently in Fall 2018, she worked with a guest choreographer to perform a brand-new piece in the middle of Atlantic Dr. celebrating the new “Seven Bridges of Konigsberg” installation in the courtyard between Howey and Mason. She works closely with the Georgia Tech choirs commonly to organize pieces that include vocal parts and foster a sense of community within the music department. Every year we perform a concerto with the student winner of the annual GTSO Concerto Competition. Outside of the Georgia Tech musical community, she maintains close ties with members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. The Tech orchestral winds section frequently has sectionals led by the Associate Principal Clarinetist of the ASO, and we have played concertos with at least 3 members of the group during my time in the ensemble. These connections with other orchestras in the community and within the music departments are usually only found at large, music performance degree-granting programs, yet we are able to experience them at Georgia Tech due to Dr. Ting’s persistence and connections.

Finally, and most importantly, Dr. Ting tenaciously works to personally connect with each and every individual in the orchestra. This is no easy task, considering she directs two orchestras and a large number of new students every semester. She keeps track of everyone’s strengths and weaknesses and chooses repertoire appropriately. In the string section, she will spread stronger players out instead of putting them only in the front. In addition to supporting weaker players, this also helps to spread the orchestra’s sound across different parts and evenly throughout the ensemble. For winds, she lets the members take turns playing 1st or 2nd parts so that everyone can have a chance to play solos. Again, this thoughtful attention to details is what is so effective at preventing members from becoming discouraged and contributes to a sense of supportive community in the orchestra. I truly feel comfortable approaching Dr. Ting at any time to ask questions, express concerns, or just talk about life.

After spending many hours with her over the past four years, my support of Dr. Chaowen Ting for the Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award is unquestionable. My experiences in an orchestra will not likely directly lead to a successful engineering career. However, the importance of this musical outlet for many of the students at Georgia Tech cannot be overstated. I believe Dr. Ting profoundly understands this concept and works extremely hard with very limited resources to make the ensemble an enjoyable, community-based oasis from the sometimes-burdensome stress and pressure of difficult Georgia Tech classes. She humbly serves this underappreciated role every day and has unquestionably improved my undergraduate experience.

Sincerely,



Austin Matthews
Principal Bassoonist, GTSO
Senior Undergraduate Student
GWW School of Mechanical Engineering

To the CETL Awards Committee,

Congratulations—you have found the professor who has made my Tech career bearable. I have had the pleasure of enrolling in music classes with Dr. Ting since my freshman year at Tech. As a fourth year undergraduate student in the Computer Engineering program here, I cannot thank or commend Dr. Ting enough for all she has done for my peers and me throughout the years.

To fully grasp Dr. Ting's impact is to understand her ownership of her unique position at Georgia Tech. As a professor here she combines her love of music, her passion to see students grow, and her expertise in her field to create a stimulating class that ultimately teaches students to continue exploring the beauty of music all throughout their lives. While students here are regularly swamped and overwhelmed with schoolwork in their technical classes, they still sign up for orchestra. Dr. Ting's immersive teaching style creates a relaxed atmosphere where everyone is welcome to participate, regardless of year or major. The class, for me, became a safe haven where I knew I could play and create beautiful art. Her popularity and effort speaks for itself in the number of students participating each year. And the icing on the cake for students enrolled? They can continue to play year after year. Students join orchestra here to play music at a technical school, but they stay because of Dr. Ting.

For me, being enrolled in the smaller of the two orchestras (chamber orchestra,) I assumed our class would not be a high priority for Dr. Ting. However, we still received her full dedication and even received interesting class projects with once in a lifetime performance opportunities. I will never forget when she revealed we were going to perform the world premiere of a concerto! On her own time outside of class, Dr. Ting had contacted a modern-day composer who wanted to compose a piece for our orchestra. She coordinated multiple large-scale video conferences with the Italian composer Alessandra Salvati where the class could ask questions about the piece as well as perform sections for feedback. Throughout the experience, students worked diligently to perform a difficult genre of music. On the day of the premiere, we felt so successful as all our work came to fruition in an experience few musicians get to have. Dr. Ting not only believed in her students on the whole, she believed in me. She approached me one time after class and brought up the President's Undergraduate Research Award research opportunity. I never thought I could pursue research at Georgia Tech, much less in the integration of music and technology; however, I quickly learned not to limit myself to the opportunities obvious to my major. This perspective enabled me to pursue a multidisciplinary capstone project this year and to not be afraid to apply creativity in *all* areas of my life.

Dr. Ting fully integrates her profound knowledge of music with her warm and caring personality into her teaching style. She leaves a lasting impact on all of her students, and I am honored to be among them.

Sincerely,

Noah Pilz
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering '19
noahp@gatech.edu

To the CETL/BP Teaching Excellence Award Committee

I am Kedi Zheng, a first year MS computer science student and a Flutist in the orchestra. I am writing this letter to recommend Dr. Chaowen Ting for the Junior teaching excellence award. I have had the honor to play in GT Orchestra and learn conducting from Dr.Ting since I arrived at Tech. I can say, without any reservation, that Dr.Ting is one of the finest musician and educator I have met in my life.

I first met Dr.Ting in my first rehearsal at Georgia Tech Symphony Orchestra. Right of the bat, I can feel Dr.Ting's passion for music and teaching. Before we try out each new piece, she would spend time with us just talking about the music. Not only has Dr.Ting taught us how we should approach each measure of music, but she has also shared with us the story and the emotions behind the music. It is always very interactive, and always full of deep musical thoughts and laughter. By the time we play, Dr.Ting had infused us with contagious energy and the emotions that help us to make more expressive music.

Dr.Ting has gone extra miles to ensure students have the best music education. Besides being the conductor of GT Symphony Orchestra, she also found GT Chamber Orchestra and serves as the conductor. The chamber orchestra is for the intermediate level player. Expanding the orchestra into two groups not only allows us to find the right niche for ourselves, but also makes music more accessible and allows more GT students to engage with music. These two orchestras combined host 8 concerts per school year. These concerts give us a venue for showcasing our music and also a venue for students who enjoy music to come together. Dr.Ting has built a close-knit community centered around music and has made many student's life more colorful at Tech.

Dr.Ting volunteered to teach conducting to students who are interested. I was one of the conducting student. We would get together every Monday 9:00 AM to learn music scores and other conducting skills. Even more, she has given each conducting student the opportunity to conduct the chamber orchestra every other week. Even at professional music school, conducting students rarely have the privilege to have that many hands-on experience. During our conducting session, we would each conduct and Dr.Ting would point out mistakes and potential improvements and help us overcome them. She was very patient with us, but the bar she has for us is also very high. We would spend an entire session just to correct seemingly minor but vitally important issues. It is only after we have corrected the issues did we learn how much improvement it brought. It is surreal experience that make both the student conductors and the orchestra grow. The student conductors were able to gain a deeper understanding of orchestral music and conducting skills. The orchestra learned how to read conductor's gestures and movement. We all learned how important a good conductor is and how fortunate we are to have her as our conductor.

Dr. Ting is a visionary educator and she has broaden our musical horizons and enriched our mind with music. She has constantly challenged us with difficult and intellectual works from the classical era that even professional musicians find challenging, such as Beethoven's 5th symphony(Fate),. Dr.Ting has also trail blazed into uncharted territory; Last year, GT orchestra world premiered *The Seven Bridges of Königsberg*, an orchestra piece that commemorate this famous math problem. We premiered it just one month after we first read the music and I was really amazed that GT orchestra had left a mark in the music literature. This year, we have embarked a similar journey and will do another world premier for an orchestra piece and Dr.Ting would invite the composer to share the story behind the music and how we should perform it. All these wonderful music journey wouldn't have happened without Dr.Ting's drive for perfection and her effort to make us realize what we could achieve together. Even though I have only been at Tech for a year, but I can see the progress we have made under Dr.Ting's Baton on our Youtube Channel. It is inspiring to see how far GT orchestra has progressed.

She doesn't see us as what we are, but see us as what we could be.

Dr. Ting is a talented musician, a Maestro, and first and foremost a passionate and caring educator. It is truly an honor and a transformative experience to play and learn with her. I can't think of a better candidate for the junior award than Dr.Ting.

Kedi Zheng
MS, Computer Science' 20

January 27, 2019

Dear Selection Committee,

I am enthusiastic to offer my support to Dr. Chaowen Ting for the CTL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. I am a 3rd year chemical engineering student who has played the French Horn in her Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra classes for four previous semesters. In my time here at Georgia Tech, I have found few faculty members that care about their students as much as Dr. Ting.

She is understanding to the fact that none of us are music majors and may have especially stressful periods during the semester. If we need to take a step back to gather our bearings, she always has an open door for her students. She will sit down and talk about what's going on and find a compromise to still follow through with our musical and academic commitments. Our health and well-being have always been her priority, allowing us two "no questions asked" absences from rehearsals for when we need a break. She is even accommodating to class conflicts by allowing us to make up rehearsal hours in other ways.

As an engineering student, finding time to be involved musically can be difficult, but Dr. Ting has kept me more than engaged in the repertoire. She is passionate, not only about music, but about making sure we are having a positive experience in her class. She encourages us to have an opinion in our music selection for coming semesters and concerts and she genuinely values our input.

My first impression of Dr. Ting was as a timid first-year, unsure of if I belonged in the orchestra or how I would like music in college versus high school. She stood in front of our large class to introduce herself and I immediately felt better. Dr. Ting gives off an approachable, down-to-earth feeling that instantly makes you feel comfortable. We sight-read several pieces and were able to give her our input on the music and together we decided what we would perform that semester. Dr. Ting creates a classroom environment where we can all truly express ourselves. She jokes around with us when we didn't practice and can't play our part, but still holds us to the expectation that we figure it out soon. This was a new and welcoming atmosphere from the rigid rules of high school music classes.

Dr. Ting's teaching style and personality truly puts a smile on my face and has been the reason I continue to follow my passion of music, even in my third year of an engineering degree. Dr. Ting is a model of excellence and igniting the passion in students Georgia Tech stands for. Her openness and understanding towards students, combined with her excellent musical abilities makes her the golden professor. I am pleased to have a part in Dr. Ting's nomination for this award.

Sincerely,

Cristina Rosello

Georgia Institute of Technology | Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering

678-429-6107 | crosello3@gatech.edu