

Leigh Holman, the Director of Opera for the University of Colorado College of Music, balances her teaching and professional stage directing career in the US and abroad. Holman's recent and upcoming engagements include Stage Direction debuts with **Florida Grand Opera, Opéra de Montréal (Nabucco) and Opera Futura** in Verona, Italy. She is preparing for productions of *Hänsel und Gretel* and *Side by Side* by **Sondheim** with **CU Opera**.

Since joining the faculty of CU Boulder as in 2009, Holman has mounted several highly successful and award-winning seasons. The past season of CU Opera began with a "bold and daring" steampunk concept on Igor Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. She concluded the season with heralded productions of *Falstaff* and Adamo's *Little Women*.

In recent seasons, Holman has been a guest artist at **Stony Brook University** and directed a new production of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* designed by Peter Dean Beck. With conductor, Michael Christie, she directed a production of Krása's *Brundibár* with the **Colorado Music Festival** and made her debut with the **Piccolo Festival Friuli Venezia Giulia** (Rossini's, *la cambiale di matrimonio*) in Northern Italy.

In the 2011-2012 CU Opera season, Holman's staging of Mozart's, *le nozze di Figaro* received rave reviews for a production that boasted two casts of outstanding CU students. At Holman's invitation, Italian conductor Massimo Taddia visited CU Boulder to partner with her on a double-bill of *Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi*.

The 2010-2011 CU Opera season, comprised entirely American works, included *Susannah, Carousel*, and Bernstein's *Mass*. Holman returned to the National Opera Association's Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition with a scene from *Carmen*, and brought home a first place win.

In the 2009-2010 season, Holman directed a new production of *La Traviata*, remounted a production of *Don Giovanni*, both performed at Macky Auditorium and staged a new production of Rorem's, *Our Town*. Holman's presentation of Act I, Scene 1 of *La Traviata* took first place at the NOA 2010 Opera Scenes Competition. *Our Town* also won 3rd place in Category III of the NOA Opera Production Competition.

As well suited to new operatic works as she is to traditional works, Holman has produced and directed workshops of operas in association with composers including Libby Larsen, Herschel Garfein, Lori Laitman, Robert Aldridge, Daniel Kellogg and Kirke Mechem. As founder of CU NOW (New Opera Workshop), in Boulder, she continues to passionately promote the creation, collaboration and production of new American works.

In addition to directing, Holman teaches acting for singers and is the ensemble director for the CU Opera Theater Singers.

Prior to her appointment at CU Boulder, Holman served as Director of the **Opera Colorado Young Artists**. There she directed two touring productions each season, in addition to concerts and other presentations to promote Opera Colorado and the young artists contracted into the program. Holman was previously Chair of the Voice and Opera Studies Area at the **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**.

She has worked as director/assistant director and performed for companies and opera institutions including **Opera Philadelphia, Portland Opera, Nashville Opera, National Opera, Wildwood Opera, Opera Theatre of Fort Collins, University of Colorado, University of Arkansas, Eastman Opera Theatre, Opera Colorado and Stony Brook Opera**.

Holman has been a frequent opera lecturer including presentations of the pre-curtain lectures at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House and Opera 101 presentations on KVOD. She holds a graduate Opera Performance degree from the **Eastman School of Music** and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the **University of Colorado Boulder**. She received her Bachelor of Music Degree from the **University of Southern California**. In addition to directing over 30 professional and academic operatic and musical theatre productions, she served as assistant director for Thaddeus Strassberger at Opera Philadelphia in his brilliant Risorgimento “show within a show” production of Nabucco, Ron Daniels (Associate Director of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in London) in his critically acclaimed production of Madama Butterfly with Michael Fabiano at Opera Colorado and with James Robinson in the 2007 Opera Colorado production of La Traviata starring Pam Armstrong.

Holman resides in Boulder, Colorado with her husband, Doyle Johnson and their lab mix dog, Sam.