

## Leigh Holman, Associate Professor

Director of Eklund Opera, Resident Stage Director and Founder/Artist Director of CU NOW  
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### EDUCATION

D.M.A. in Voice Performance and Pedagogy	University of Colorado, Boulder	2002
M.M. in Opera Performance	Eastman School of Music	1992
B.M. in Voice Performance,	University of Southern California	1987

### POSITIONS HELD

2010-Present

#### Artistic Director

New Opera Workshop, Boulder Colorado

#### University of Colorado, Boulder

Associate Professor of Music, Director of Opera Program	2016-Present
Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Opera Program	2009-2016
Director of Opera Program (Stage Director, Artistic Director, Producer)	2009-Present
Founder/ Artistic Director/Producer of CU New Opera Workshop	2010-Present

#### Freelance Professional Director (International)

##### Opera Colorado (Denver, CO)

Director of Education and Community Programs  
Director of Ensemble Artists (Apprentice Program)  
Stage Director for Ensemble Artists' tours  
Mainstage Assistant Director to James Robinson and Ron Daniels

#### University of Arkansas at Little Rock

2002 - 2005

Assistant Professor of Music  
Voice Department Chair  
Director and Founder - University of Arkansas Opera Program  
Voice teacher

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND GUEST TEACHING

Artistic Director, Dramaturg, New Opera Workshop <sup>1</sup>	Boulder, CO	<i>The Callin'</i> with composer/librettist Tom Cipullo	2023
Guest Acting Coach	Roma, Italy	Accademia Internazionale del Musical	2022
Guest Acting Coach	Rochester, NY	Eastman School of Music	2022
Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	<i>Joan of the City</i> with composer Kamala Sankaram (Opera Omaha commission)	2022
Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	<i>Intelligence</i> with composer/librettist Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer (Houston Grand Opera commission)	2021
Stage Director, Pafos Aphrodite Festival	Pafos, Cyprus	<i>Die Entführung aus dem Serail</i>	2018

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<sup>1</sup> The New Opera Workshop is listed because though it is presented on the Boulder campus it has gained recognition from major opera companies around the US (similar to the Colorado Shakespeare Festival)

Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	<i>If I Were You</i> with composer/librettist Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer (San Francisco Opera commission)	2019
Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	<i>Hobson's Choice</i> with composer by Tom Cipullo	2018
Guest Opera Acting Coach	Roma/Bologna	Accademia Internazionale del Musical	2018
Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	<i>The Gospel of Mary Magdalene</i> with composer by Mark Adamo	2017
Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	<i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> with composer/librettist Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer (Houston Grand Opera commission)	2016
Associate Stage Director, Opera Futura	Salsamaggiore, Italy	Madama Butterfly	2016
Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	The Song of Susan Smith (with composer Zach Redler and Mark Campbell)	2015
Associate Stage Director, Opera Philadelphia (Thaddeus Strassberger)	Philadelphia, PA	Nabucco (Verdi)	2014
Stage Director, Opera de Montreal	Montreal Canada	Nabucco (Verdi)	2014
Stage Director, Florida Grand Opera	Miami, FL	Nabucco (Verdi)	2014
Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	The Master (with Alberto Caruso and Colm Toibin)	2014
Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop		Ludlow with Composer and librettist Lori Laitman and David Mason (poet laureate)	2013
Stage Director, Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	A Wrinkle in Time (with Libby Larsen)	2013
Stage Director, Colorado Music Festival	Boulder, CO	Brundibar (Hans Krása) with conductor Michael Christie	2012
Stage Director, Stony Brook University	Long Island, NY	<i>Die Entführung aus dem Serail</i>	2012
Stage Director, Piccolo Festival	(Friuli Region, Italy)+	<i>La cambiale di matrimonio</i> Regional Tour	2011
Managing and Artistic Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	<i>Sister Carrie</i> with composer and librettist Robert Aldridge and Herschel Garfein	2011
Stage Director, Managing and Artistic Director New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> with composer and librettist Kirke Mechem	2011
Stage Director, New Opera Workshop	Boulder, CO	<i>The Autumn Orchard</i> with composer Daniel Kellogg	2010

Stage Director, Central City Opera Ensemble Artists	Central City, CO	<i>Pastiche Opera</i> , Opera Rocks the Rockies, tour	2009
Stage Director, Opera Colorado Ensemble Artists	Denver, CO	<i>The Music Shop</i> (Richard Wargo) 30 touring performances	2008
Stage Director, Opera Colorado Ensemble Artists	Denver, CO	Contemporary Opera Project	2008
Stage Director, Opera Colorado Ensemble Artists	Denver, CO	<i>La Cenerentola</i> (Rossini) 30 touring performances	2007
Stage Director, Opera Theatre of Fort Collins	Fort Collins, CO	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i> (Rossini)	2007
Stage Director, The Wesley Players	Highlands Ranch, CO	<i>The Sound of Music</i> (Rogers)	2006
Stage Director, Opera Colorado Ensemble Artists	Denver, CO	<i>Island of Tulipatan</i> (Offenbach) 15 touring performances	2006
Assistant Stage Director, Opera Colorado (Ron Daniels)	Denver, CO	<i>Madama Butterfly</i> (Puccini)	2006
Assistant Stage Director, Opera Colorado (James Robinson)	Denver, CO	<i>La Traviata</i> (Verdi)	2005
Stage Director, Rocky Mountain Center of Musical Arts	Lafayette, CO	Amahl and the Night Visitors (Menotti)	2000

**PROFESSIONAL OPERA PERFORMANCES (mezzo soprano)**

Wildwood Opera	Little Rock, AR	<i>Rigoletto</i> : Role of Maddalena (Verdi)	2004
Nashville Opera	Nashville, TN	Title Role: <i>Cenerentola</i> (Rossini)	1998
National Opera Company	Raleigh, NC	Hansel in <i>Hansel and Gretel</i> (Humperdink).	1994
National Opera Company	Raleigh, NC	Title Role in <i>Beatrice and Benedict</i> (Berlioz)	1995
National Opera Company	Raleigh, NC	Queen Isabella in <i>L'Italian in Agieri</i> (Rossini)	1994-1995 Tour
National Opera Company	Raleigh, NC	Title Role: <i>Cenerentola</i> ,	1994-1995
Portland Opera Company	Portland, OR	<i>Hansel</i> in <i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	1992 Tour
Portland Opera Company	Portland, OR	Resident Artist of Portland Opera Performances, Outreach.	1992-1993 Tour

+This production toured 11 cities in Italy throughout 2012-2013. + Performances in Trieste, Bologna, Maniago, Tricesimo, Udine

## TEACHING

### Productions Directed and Produced.

New Opera Workshop, Founder and Artistic, Managing Director	Boulder, CO	Professional opera development and student composed operas	Est.2010
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Falstaff</i> (Verdi)	2023
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Cendrillon</i> (Massenet)	2023
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>La Boheme</i> (Puccini)	2022
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Postcard from Morocco</i> (Argento)	2022
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Guys and Dolls</i> (Loesser)	2022
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>La Traviata</i> (Verdi)	2021
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Agripinna</i> (Handel)	2021
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Hansel und Gretel</i> (Humperdinck) digital online	2020
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Beatrice et Benedict</i> (Berlioz) digital online	2020
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> (Mozart) (film for public online/Pandemic)	2020
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> (Heggie/Scheer) attendance by Heggie/Scheer	2019
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Turn of the Screw</i> (Britten)	2019
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>West Side Story</i> (Bernstein)	2018
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Ariodante</i> (Handel)	2018
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Sweeney Todd</i> (Sondheim)	2018
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Die lustige Witwe</i> (Lehar)	2017
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Die Fledermaus</i> (J. Strauss)	2016
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>The Tender Land</i> (Copland)	2016

Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Dialogues of the Carmelites</i> (Poulenc)	2016
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>L'incoronazione di Poppea</i> (Monteverdi)	2014
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Così fan tutte</i> (Mozart)	2014
Stage Director/Producer, Eklund Opera at CU Boulder	Boulder, CO	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i> (O'Sullivan)	2014
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>Side by Side by Sondheim</i> (Sondheim)	2014
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>Hansel und Gretel</i> (Humperdinck)	2014
Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>La Bohème</i> (Puccini)	2014
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>Little Women</i> (Adamo)	2013
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>Falstaff</i> (Verdi)	2013
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>The Rake's Progress</i> (Stravinsky)	2012
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>La cambiale di matrimonio</i> (Rossini)	2012
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi</i> (Puccini)	2012
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> (Mozart)	2011
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>The Bernstein Mass</i> (Bernstein)	2011
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>Susannah</i> (Floyd)	2011
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>Carousel</i> (Rogers)	2010
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>Our Town</i> (Rorem)	2010
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>Don Giovanni</i> (Mozart)	2010
Stage Director/Producer, CU Opera	Boulder, CO	<i>La Traviata</i> (Verdi)	2009

#### COURSES TAUGHT 2009 - PRESENT

**Opera Theater 1 PMUS 4137** Opera theater scenes in a final public opera scenes performance for the community

**Opera Theater 1 PMUS 5137** Opera theater scenes in a final public opera scenes performance for the community

**Opera Theater 2 PMUS 4147** Opera Workshop for undergraduates. Aria preparation, staging and audition preparation. Opera Theater 1 PMUS 5137- Opera Workshop for Graduates. Students prepare and perform opera and musical theater scenes in a final public performance.

**Opera Theater 2 PMUS 5147** Opera Workshop for undergraduates. Aria preparation, staging and audition preparation. Opera Practicum PMUS 4157-Opera Performance lab for undergraduates. Opera

**Practicum PMUS 4157** Opera Performance lab for undergraduates culminating in a fully realized opera or musical theater production.

**Practicum PMUS 5157** Opera Performance lab for graduates culminating in a fully realized opera or musical theater production.

#### SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION TO COLLEGE

## **Eklund Opera Program Director**

(9 month faculty appointment)

- Producer of all fully realized productions (5 per every 2 years)
- Supervise two employees (time, leave, yearly evaluations)
- Co-supervise contracted choreographers, fight coordinators, scenic, lighting, wig, makeup and property designers
- Drive ongoing collaboration executing funding strategies, donor support and donor engagement with Advancement and Events
- Drive ongoing collaborations executing marketing strategies with CU Presents: Marketing, Box Office
- Initiate, supervise, execute written, virtual, in-person communications with the public, new opera promoters, composers, journalists, board members, audience members, artists
- Co-Chair: Production Team
- Chair: Opera Audition Committee
- Member: Voice Faculty

## **College of Music Performance Service**

Solo voice performance in collaboration with Professor John Gunther and the Thompson Jazz Program

Jazz Band: Holiday Festival 2022

## **AWARDS and HONORS**

2022 2nd Place National Opera Association Video Production competition for *La Traviata*

2020 and 2021 National Opera Association Competition submission suspended due to COVID

2019 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: National Opera Association National Conference Video Competition for *Turn of the Screw* by Benjamin Britten.

2014 2nd Place: National Opera Association National Conference Scenes Competition. New York City. *La Bohème* by Puccini.

2013 2nd Place: National Opera Association National Conference Scenes Competition. Portland, OR The *Rake's Progress* by Stravinsky.

2011 1st Place: National Opera Association National Conference Scenes Competition. Performed live scene from Act II of *Carmen* by Bizet.

3rd Place: National Opera Association National Conference Opera Video Production Competition: 2010 CU production of *Our Town* by Rorem.

2010 1st place: National Opera Association National Conference Scenes Competition: Presented live scene from *La Traviata* by Verdi.

## **GRANTS AND FUNDING**

2023 CHA Fund Award \$1100

2023 C.W. Bixler Family Foundation Faculty Initiatives Fund \$7500 (for American Opera research)

2023 Denver Lyric Opera Guild Grant \$5000 -Christie Conover – writer

2022 Denver Lyric Opera Guild Grant \$5000 -Christie Conover – writer

2019 Denver Lyric Opera Guild Grant \$5000 -Christie Conover – writer

2018 Roser Visiting Artist Endowment \$8077 2018 Mini Roser Grant \$700

2017 RIO Research and Innovation, Innovation Seed Grant \$20,000

2016 CHA Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities (GCAH) \$3000

2012 Outreach Award, Office for University Outreach, \$4170. Opera Theater Singers Outreach Award.

2012 Roser Visiting Artist Grant \$3000 – CU Opera international guest director artist travel \$3000-Emily Martin co- writer.

2011 Boulder Arts Commission mini-grant for CU New Opera Works, \$1000.00, 2011. Heather Beasley writer.

2011 Roser mini-grant for CU New Opera Works artist travel, \$1000.00, Heather Beasley-co-writer.

2011 Presidents Fund for the Humanities, CU New Opera Works, \$1000.00 2011. Heather Beasley writer.

2010 BCAA Neodata project grant. CU New Opera Works, \$1000.00. 2011. Heather Beasley- co-writer.

2010 President's Fund for Humanities, \$3000. CU NOW.

2010 Outreach Award, Office for University Outreach, \$3600. Opera Theater Singers Outreach Award.

2010 Schramm Foundation, \$5000. Opera Outreach.

2009 Price Foundation, \$45,000 over 3 years through 2013. For Central City Opera/Opera Colorado Outreach Collaboration.

2009 President's Fund for Humanities, \$3000.

2009 Schramm Foundation, \$1000. Opera Outreach.

2009 Price Foundation, \$10,000. Central City Opera/Opera Colorado Outreach Collaboration.

### **OPERA STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

It has been a great pleasure to see the following alums of the CU Opera program go on to the successes that they have had, during their time at CU and since graduation

Wei Wu, 2013 graduate – Grammy Award Winner, Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Washington National Opera (Simson) Skyler Schlenker, 2019 Graduate – Accepted to the Artist Diploma designation at Indiana University (Garland)

Taylor Raven, 2026 -Washington National Opera, Seattle Opera, Los Angeles Opera (Nims)

Denver Lyric Opera Guild 2022 winners from CU:

2nd place---Kelly Riordan, mezzo-soprano (MM, 2021) (Nims)

4th place---Gabrielle Razafinjatovo, mezzo-soprano (MM)

(Nims) 7th place---Paul Wolf, tenor (DMA) (Chellis)

Certificate of Merit---Alice Del Simone, soprano (MM) (Bird-Arvidsson)

Honorable Mention---Kyrie Laybourn, soprano (MM) (Bird-Arvidsson)

Honorable Mention---Dawna Rae Warren, Soprano (AD) (Bird-Arvidsson)

### **CURRENT PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

#### **Professional**

National Opera Association, \*VPC committee member

Opera America, National \* member

Opera America New Works Forum

Opera America Professional Development Forum \*meetings attended