

**Leigh Holman, DMA.**  
**Stage Director/Opera Performance Teacher**

1860 Walnut Street, Apt. #7 • Boulder, Colorado 80302 • 303-746-9435 • lholman@operacolorado.org

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**CAREER OBJECTIVE**

To stage opera and musical theatre productions and teach undergraduate and graduate students in a leading institution of higher learning while continuing to develop and maintain an active career as a professional stage director.

**ACADEMIC DEGREES**

D.M.A.,	University of Colorado, Boulder, CO	2003	Voice Performance and Pedagogy
M.M.,	Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY	1992	Opera Performance (Full Fellowship)
B.M.,	University of Southern California, LA, CA	1987	Voice Performance

**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:**

**Opera Colorado** (Nationally recognized, professional regional opera company with a \$5,400,000 budget) 2006-present.

Stage Director, young artist training and arts administration.

Director of the Education and Community Programs Department and Director of the Ensemble Artist Program. Member of the Executive Senior staff. Manage 100K budget (excluding departmental salaries). Provide dramatic training and career advice for young opera artists (most have completed graduate work in voice performance and have had professional opera experience when they come into the program.) Stage two touring operas per season, program and stage musical and opera showcase concerts, conduct rehearsals, collaborate with musical, development, marketing and production staff, organize, provide masterclasses and lectures throughout the state including the pre-curtain lectures before the mainstage operas at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, supervise touring schedule, program development, script preview narration, participate actively in Sr. Staff, Executive Board and Full Board meetings, evaluation of employees. Supervise one full-time employee (the Manager of Education and Community Programs) and one college graduate intern.

**PROFESSIONAL COMPANIES (AS A PERFORMER AND/OR DIRECTOR)**

Opera Colorado, Portland Opera, Nashville Opera, National Opera, Wildwood Opera, Opera Fort Collins

**ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL OPERA TRAINING/TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2006-Present	Opera Colorado, Denver, CO. Director of Education and Community Programs, Director of Ensemble Artists (Apprentice Program), EA Stage Director and mainstage Assistant Director under James Robinson and Ron Daniels.
2005-2006	University of Colorado College of Music, Boulder, CO. Adjunct teacher of Appreciation of Music. Stage Director,
2002-2005	University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Assistant Professor of Music, Voice and Opera Studies Program, Area Coordinator UALR Opera Dept. Founder and Director (still a thriving program)
1999-2002	University of Colorado at Boulder. Opera Director Teaching Assistant.
1999-2001	University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. Community School, Voice Teacher,
1998-1999	Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN. Adjunct Teacher of Voice.

**UPCOMING DIRECTING ENGAGEMENTS**

Director, **The Music Shop**, Opera Colorado Ensemble Artist Program, January 2009

Director, **Contemporary Opera Project**, Opera Colorado Ensemble Artist Program, May 2009

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**DIRECTING EXPERIENCE**

*Assistant Director*, (Ron Daniels, Assoc. Director of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre) *Madama Butterfly*, Opera Colorado, October 2008

*Assistant Director* (James Robinson, Art. Director of Opera Theatre of St. Louis) *La Traviata*, Opera Colorado November 2007

*Director*, **La Cenerentola**, Opera Colorado Ensemble Artist Program, January 2008

*Director*, **Il barbiere di Siviglia**, Opera Theatre of Fort Collins June 2007

*Director*, **La Curandera**, Opera Colorado Young Artist Outreach Ensemble, January 2007

*Director*, **Island of Tulipatan**, Opera Colorado Young Artist Outreach Ensemble, March 2007

*Director*, **The Sound of Music**, The Wesley Players, Highlands Ranch, CO Oct 2006

*Director* Gilbert and Sullivan's **Iolanthe**, Colorado Light Opera, Boulder, CO July 2006

*Assistant Director* (William Gustafson), **Hansel and Gretel**, CU Opera, October 2005

*Director*, **The Tender Land** UALR Opera Theatre Workshop, April 2005

*Director*, **Red, Hot and Cole**, UALR Opera Theatre Workshop, October 2004

*Director*, **Noye's Fludde**, Wildwood Opera Children's Opera Theatre, Little Rock, AR, August 2004

*Director*, **Hansel and Gretel**, UALR Opera Theatre Workshop, April 2004

*Director*, **Side by Side by Sondheim**, UALR Opera Theatre Workshop, November 2003

*Directing Apprenticeship* (private) with stage director, Rhoda Levine. **The Good Soldier Schweik-**  
Glimmerglass Opera, Summer 2003

*Director*, **Windows**, UALR Opera Theatre Workshop Scenes Program, April 2003

*Director*, **Trial By Jury**, University of Colorado at Boulder, April 2001

*Director*, **Mozart Opera Scenes**, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2001

*Director*, **The Telephone**, CU Boulder Directing Project, 2001

*Assistant Director*, **Die Fledermaus**, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2001

*Associate Director*, **The Mikado** (William Mooney), University of Colorado at Boulder, 2001

*Assistant Director*, **Falstaff**, (Dennis Jackson), University of Colorado at Boulder, 2001

*Assistant Director*, **The Merry Widow**, (D. Jackson), University of Colorado at Boulder, 2000

*Director*, **Amahl and the Night Visitors**, Rocky Mountain Center of Musical Arts, 2000 and 2001

*Director*, **Hansel and Gretel**, University of Colorado at Boulder Children's Opera, 1999

*Director*, **Little Red Riding Hood (Barab)**, University of Colorado at Boulder Children's Opera, 1999

*Director*, **Amadeus**, Circle Players, Nashville, TN, 1998

*Musical Director*, **Sweeney Todd**, Circle Players, Nashville, TN, 1998

*Director*, **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, Nite Lite Theater, Trenton, TN, 1997

*Director*, **The Odd Couple**, Nite Lite Theater, Trenton, TN, 1996

*Director*, **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**, Nite Lite Theater, Trenton, TN, 1993

*Assistant Director*, **La Bohème**, (Richard Pearlman), Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, 1990

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**TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMPETENCIES**

Coordinator of Opera Studies –Opera and Musical Theatre Stage Director, administrator, program promotion, oversee opera program, budget

Opera Workshop/Opera Performance – audition, stage and acting techniques for preparation of opera and music theatre repertoire.

Acting for Singers-an in-depth look at character development, monologues, scene work and improvisation with spoken text as a basis for acting foundation.

Director/Musical Director of vocal ensemble-specialize in groups designed to promote the institution with outside performances of musical theatre, opera and art song repertoire

History of Opera – survey of European and American opera history

History of Music Theatre – 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century survey

Voice for Music Theatre – class voice and audition techniques for music theatre

Applied Voice – Classical and musical theatre Studio Voice instruction

Voice Class—fundamentals of singing and repertoire in a group setting

Language Diction – French, German, Italian, English

Music Appreciation-Survey of Western European Music from the Middle Ages through present day

Song Interpretation – Song research and dramatic interpretation

Vocal Pedagogy – the practical and scientific study of voice teaching

The History of Vocal Literature – song literature from 1600-present

**MAJOR DIRECTORS, DIRECTING TEACHERS , COACHES AND MENTORS**

William Snyder, James Robinson, Ron Daniels, Rhoda Levine, Richard Pearlman, William Mooney, Dennis Jackson, Franz Boerlage

**MAJOR VOICE TEACHERS AND COACHES**

Beverly Johnson, Marcia Baldwin, Thomas Paul, Marilyn Jewett, Patti Peterson, Patrick Mason, Robert Spillman, Kenneth Merrill, Mutsumi Moteki

**PROFESSIONAL OPERA PERFORMANCE (MEZZO-SOPRANO)**

Performed leading roles with Wildwood Opera (Little Rock, AR), 2004. Nashville Opera (Nashville, TN), 1998. National Opera Company (Raleigh, NC), 1993-1995, Resident Artists of Portland Opera (Portland, OR), 1992-1993, Opera Theater of Rochester (Rochester, NY),1991.

**VOCAL PERFORMANCES 2006-2008**

Voice Concert, Robert Spillman, Piano, Nite Lite Theatre Benefit Performance, Trenton, TN, Milan TN, July 2008

Pikes Peak Opera League Gala, June 2008

Opera Colorado Gala Kick-Off event-soloist, June 2007

Voice Faculty Recital with Robert Spillman, Piano, University of Colorado College of Music, Boulder, CO February 5, 2006

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**OUTREACH**

Directed: Opera Colorado young artist Ensemble, Opera Colorado, Denver, CO 2006-present

Directed: UALR Opera Theatre Singers (University of Arkansas promotional outreach troupe) 2003-2004

CU Boulder, Children's Opera (University of Colorado student performers in Denver/Boulder area schools) 1999-2001

Performed: Lyric Theater Singers (University of Colorado promotional outreach troupe) 1999-2001

Nashville Institute for the Arts (Modeled after the Lincoln Center program for arts in schools) 1997-1998

National Opera Company, Abridged Opera for School Children performed in North Carolina Schools. 1993-1995

**COMMITTEES AND PANELS SERVED**

Presenter, New Works Sampler, Opera America Conference, Denver, CO 2008

Panelist, Creating Opera, Opera America Conference, Denver, CO 2008

Presenter, Bi-lingual Opera for Schools, Opera America Conference, Denver, CO 2008

Chair, Music Department Recruitment, Retention & Scholarship Committee, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR 2002-2005

Music Department Executive Committee (departmental policy and peer review), UALR 2004

Area Coordinator, Voice and Opera Studies, UALR 2002-2005

**FUNDING AND RECRUITMENT**

Opera Colorado Ensemble Artist program (formerly the OC Outreach Ensemble) served 24,000 students and adults in 2006-2007 and grew to audiences of 43,000 in 2007-2008. Audience Development efforts were highly successful and grew from adult audiences (non-mainstage audiences) of 8,000 to 18,000 in one year. Directed and produced New Works Sampler: Opera Colorado and Central City Opera collaborated on a performance of scenes from new operatic works at the Opera America Conference, Ellie Caulkins Opera House, July 2008. Due to the great demand of our programs and exceptional growth over the past two years, the company has extended the Ensemble Artist program from a 5 month outreach program to a 7 month young artist program. The success of the program in the past two years has recruited some of the finest young singers who have gone on to perform at San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, Los Angeles Opera and Syracuse Opera. Beginning in the fall of 2009, young artists will be offered small roles on the mainstage in addition to their educational and audience development performing opportunities. These successes, among other educational and programming improvements at Opera Colorado, have attracted significant individual and corporate giving in the area of education.

Founded the UALR Opera Theatre Workshop, 2002. Since its inception, studio voice enrollment increased 75%. Audience attendance was at near capacity for all performances.

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Founded OTS (The UALR Opera Theatre Singers) 2003. These students perform at university donor and community events and in high schools. This group served as a “calling card” for the voice and opera studies program promoting possible funding sources and student recruitment. At these events, high school students or potential donors had the opportunity to meet with our student performers, ask questions, and receive information on our program and scholarship opportunities.

Grants-Wrote a grant proposal which was subsequently awarded by the Provost. We used this funding to develop professionally produced marketing materials for the Voice and Opera Studies Area. These materials were used in recruitment and in fund-raising.

Fundraising-In tandem with the UALR Development office, raised funds for opera productions from corporate and private sponsors. This involved establishing a strong presence in the community by performing in professional opera and for University functions (Wildwood Opera Co, Chancellor Inauguration, commencement, UALR Faculty Excellence Awards, etc.) promoting our opera program through outreach performances by our UALR students (The UALR Foundation Board, The Friends of the Arts Gala dinner, Rotary Club and many other local organizations) and meeting with interested potential patrons.

**CURRENT PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS (\*MEETINGS ATTENDED)**

National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Regional\* State\*

National Opera Association\*

Opera America, National \*

**OPERATIC ROLES PERFORMED**

<b>Maddalena</b>	<u>Rigoletto</u>	<i>Verdi</i>	Wildwood Opera, Little Rock, AR - 2004
<b>Cherubino</b>	<u>Le Nozze di Figaro</u>	<i>Mozart</i>	University of Colorado at Boulder (Martin Isepp, conductor) -2000, Opera Theater of Rochester - 1992, University of TN Opera, Martin, TN - 1983
<b>Angelina</b>	<u>Cenerentola</u>	<i>Rossini</i>	Nashville Opera Company - 1998, Bay View Music Festival - 1991
<b>Beatrice</b>	<u>Bèatrice and Bènèdict</u>	<i>Berlioz</i>	National Opera Company Raleigh, NC – 1993-1995
<b>Isabella</b>	<u>L’Italiana in Algeri</u>	<i>Rossini</i>	National Opera Company (National Tour) – 1993-1995
<b>Hansel</b>	<u>Hansel and Gretel</u>	<i>Humperdinck</i>	National Opera Company – 1993-1995, Portland Opera, Resident Artist – 1992-1993
<b>Meg Page</b>	<u>The Merry Wives of Windsor</u>	<i>Nicolai</i>	National Opera Company (National Tour), – 1994-1995
<b>Gianetta</b>	<u>L’Elisir d’amore</u>	<i>Donizetti</i>	National Opera Company (National Tour), – 1993
<b>Dorabella</b>	<u>Così fan tutte</u> (previews)	<i>Mozart</i>	Portland Opera, Resident Artist - 1992-1993
<b>The Secretary</b>	<u>The Consul</u>	<i>Menotti</i>	Eastman Opera Theater - 1992
<b>Nursemaid</b>	<u>Street Scene</u>	<i>Weill</i>	Eastman Opera Theater - 1991
<b>Veronica</b>	<u>The Sunday Excursion</u>	<i>Wilder</i>	MTSU Opera, Murfreesboro, TN - 1989
<b>Orlovsky</b>	<u>Die Fledermaus</u>	<i>J. Strauss</i>	University of TN Opera - 1987

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**MUSIC THEATRE AND THEATRE ROLES**

<b>Maria</b>	<u>The Sound of Music</u>	<i>Rodgers</i>	University of Colorado at Boulder - 2001, Nite Lite Theate - 1982
<b>Reno Sweeney</b>	<u>Anything Goes</u>	<i>Porter</i>	University of Colorado at Boulder - 2000
<b>Aunt Eller</b>	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<i>Rodgers</i>	University of Colorado at Boulder - 1999
<b>Gentlewoman</b>	<u>Twelfth Night</u>	<i>Shakespeare</i>	Nashville Shakespeare Festival - 1999
<b>Stepmother</b>	<u>Cinderella</u>	<i>Rodgers</i>	Circle Players, Nashville, TN - 1998
<b>Woman</b>	<u>Marry Me a Little</u> (2 person show)	<i>Sondheim</i>	Nite Lite Theater, Trenton, TN - 1992
<b>Lois/Bianca</b>	<u>Kiss Me Kate</u>	<i>Cole Porter</i>	Bay View Music Festival - 1991
<b>Linda Porter</b>	<u>Red, Hot and Cole</u> (review)	<i>Porter</i>	Eastman Opera Theater - 1992
<b>Pitti Sing</b>	<u>The Mikado</u>	<i>Sullivan</i>	Nite Lite Theater - 1981
<b>Hodel</b>	<u>Fiddler on the Roof</u>	<i>Boch</i>	Nite Lite Theater - 1980

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**References**

Peter Russell

Former General Director of Opera Colorado.

Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program,

General Director of Wolf Trap Opera

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Dr. David Belcher

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Anthony Dean Griffey

Tenor, Metropolitan Opera, Glyndebourne Opera, Paris Opera, San Francisco Opera

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