

# D. Kern Holoman

## Short Biography

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D. Kern Holoman is Professor of Music, emeritus, at the University of California, Davis, having retired as of July 2013. He was fourth conductor of the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra, 1977–2009, and continues his affiliation with the ensemble as conductor emeritus. Holoman was founding Dean of Humanities, Arts & Cultural Studies in the College of Letters & Science at UC-Davis (1995–96) and prior to that time chairman of the Department of Music (1980–88) and interim chairman of the Department of Dramatic Art (1994–95); in 2009–10 he served as interim chairman of the Department of Art and Art Studio. He was a founding editor and longtime managing editor of the UCD-based journal *19th-Century Music*, which celebrates its 35th year of publication in 2011–12.

Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1947, Holoman holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude* with distinction in music from Duke University, and the Master of Fine Arts and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton University. Additionally he studied bassoon and conducting during the inaugural years of the North Carolina School for the Arts / Accademia Musicale Chigiana Summer Sessions in Siena, Italy. His field research is centered in and around Paris, where he maintains a second residence, Le Vieux Lôgis.

As a musicologist Holoman's work though 2003 focused on the music of the nineteenth-century French composer Hector Berlioz. He is author of the first thematic catalogue of Berlioz's works (Kassel, etc.: New Berlioz Edition, vol. 25, 1987) and editor of the New Berlioz Edition's *Roméo et Juliette* (New Berlioz Edition, vol. 18, 1991), and his one-

volume life and works, *Berlioz*, was published by the Harvard University Press in 1989 and in London by Faber and Faber in 1990. Holoman was a member of the international Berlioz 2003 Bicentennial Commission, planning and delivering over five years a series of concerts, productions, colloquia, and publications culminating with *Berlioz: La Voix du Romantisme*, catalogue of the bicentenary exhibition (Bibliothèque Nationale de France, 2003), of which he was a co-author.

Turning to the ensemble most closely associated with Berlioz and his music, Holoman wrote *The Société des Concerts du Conservatoire (1828–1967)*, a chronicle of the celebrated Paris Conservatory Orchestra (UC Press, 2007); and he co-authored *Orchestre de Paris, 1828–2008*, an anniversary retrospective (Orchestre de Paris, 2007, with Cécile Reynaud and Catherine Massip). A biography of the Alsatian conductor *Charles Munch* followed (Oxford University Press, 2011), as well as a study of the philharmonic society past and present, *The Orchestra: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

*Evenings With the Orchestra: a Norton Guide for Concert-Goers* (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1992, a Book of the Month Club selection), grew out of Holoman's six years as chief program annotator for the Sacramento Symphony Orchestra. He has served as advisor, program annotator, or broadcast commentator for the Sacramento, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Boston, and Paris Symphony Orchestras and the San Francisco Opera, and has written several liner notes for Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft (DGG) and essays for *The New York Review of Books*. For university students he developed the multimedia course of study *Masterworks: A Musical Discovery*, published in 1998 by Prentice Hall / Simon & Schuster in collaboration with Sony Music, with subsequent editions through 2010—the first fully integrated multimedia package in the field. In its e-book form, *Masterworks* remains the foundation of the popular Music 10 large-lecture course at UC Davis. *Writing About Music*, for students and professional writers, is in its third edition (UC Press, 2014).

Highlights of Holoman's tenure as conductor of the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra were first performances of two works by Berlioz and premieres of music by Jerome Rosen, Richard Swift, Maria Niederberger, Steven Mackey, Eric Sawyer, Wayne Slawson, Pablo Ortiz, and Laurie San Martin. The 1988–89 season of the UCD Symphony Orchestra commemorated the bicentennial of the Republic of France, culminating in a three-week tour of French Polynesia and Australia. In 1999 Holoman conducted the world premiere performances of Jerome Rosen's *Emperor Norton of the USA*, an opera in two acts. In 2003 the UCD Symphony traveled to France to participate in the Berlioz bicentenary; for the bicentenary the UCDSO published its third CD, *Marching with Berlioz*. On 24 November 2002, the UCD Symphony inaugurated its new home, the Barbara K. and W. Turrentine Jackson Hall in the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Arts, UC-Davis. Holoman served on committees recommending and planning for the hall from 1974. Among the highlights of his concluding seasons were Mondavi Center performances with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Aaron Sherber conducting (2004); a joint performance of *Carmen* with the San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows (2007), and a joint performance of Charles Ives's Fourth Symphony with the University of the Pacific Orchestra, Nicolas Waldvogel, conducting (2008). In 2013 he returned to conduct the UCDSO and Choruses in Edward Elgar's epic oratorio, *The Dream of Gerontius*.

Holoman was a 1986 winner of the UC-Davis Distinguished Teaching Award, presented by the Davis Division of the Academic Senate, University of California. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa (and secretary of the Davis chapter, Kappa of California), the American Musicological Society, the Association Nationale Hector Berlioz, and the Advisory Board of the New Berlioz Edition, and a former Woodrow Wilson Fellow, Fulbright-Hays Fellow, and Research Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1995 he was awarded the UC Davis Prize for undergraduate teaching and remarkable scholarly

achievement, presented by the UC Davis Foundation. On 14 July 1989 he was named a *chevalier* of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Republic of France; in February 1999 he was elevated to the rank of *officier* in the order. In 2000–01 he became Barbara K. Jackson Professor of Music at UC Davis; in November 2010 he was named Honorary Member of the American Musicological Society, recognizing a career of achievement in scholarship, teaching, and service to the organization.

Holoman continues to teach classes and individual students as needed. In April and May 2014 he will be honored with an Emyrean Ensemble concert of works composed for him and with a scholarly symposium, details to be announced.