

KARLA HOLLAND-MORITZ, CELLO



Karla Holland-Moritz studied at the Interlochen Arts Academy in her native Michigan; The New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture; Academy of San Carlos at the Autonomous University of Mexico; State University of New York at Purchase; Hahnemann Medical College (now Hahnemann University); and Yale School of Music, where she received her Masters Degree in Music Performance. She has studied the cello with Gretchen Dalley, Laurence Lesser, Aldo Parisot, Michael Grebanier, and Ronald Leonard. Karla toured with the Goldovsky Opera Company, played with La Filarmonica de las Americas in Mexico City, and the Puerto Rico Symphony before joining the San Diego Symphony in 1981.

Together with San Diego Symphony cellist colleague Glen Campbell, Karla is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Strings by the Sea, a Suzuki music camp held annually for the past 15 years at Point Loma Nazarene University, serving approximately 150 young Suzuki violin, viola, and cello students every summer.

Karla's cello students perform in a cello ensemble at retirement communities, United Cerebral Palsy programs, and at shelters for homeless people. Karla has also played her cello as a trained Patient Care Volunteer at San Diego Hospice's Inpatient Care Center.

Karla is an Associate of the Order of the Holy Cross through Mt. Calvary Community at St. Mary's Retreat House, an Episcopal Benedictine monastery in Santa Barbara, where she leads musical retreats for adult amateur musicians several times a year.

Getting to know Karla Holland-Moritz...

Q: What are your favorite three tunes or pieces on your iPod/Mp3 or CD collection?

A: Diego Ortiz - *Vespers* 1565, Church of San Marco Evangelista, Italy; Thomas Tallis - *The Lamentations of Jeremiah*, Deller Consort; Rachmaninov - *Vespers*, Choir of King's College, Cambridge

Q: How did you choose your instrument?

A: My father, Helmut Holland-Moritz, was the instrumental music teacher in our school district. All students played the Tonette (a small plastic end-blown flute) in the fourth grade, learning to read music and play simple songs, and performing together in the May Festival. Those who wanted to learn

to play an instrument were then given an appointment to try different instruments. Each year my father arranged for Grinnell Brothers Music House in Detroit (about 30 miles away) to bring a truckload of one of each orchestra and band instrument to our small town, for students to try under my father's guidance. When it was my turn to try instruments, my father steered me first toward a violin, then to a clarinet, and next to a flute – since we had each of those instruments at home. I tried them, and was mildly interested. Then I spotted an instrument in the corner, and asked, "Daddy, what's that?" He told me it was a cello, and he played a few notes on it for me. As soon as I heard the first note, I felt powerfully drawn to the sound, and knew that I wanted to play the cello! My dad showed me how to hold it, and taught me "Mary Had a Little Lamb", which I happily played as other students tried their instruments!

Q: What is your favorite travel destination?

A: Santa Barbara – see below!

Q: What good book have you read most recently?

A: *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor

Q: What is your choice for dining in San Diego?

A: Muzita Abyssinian Bistro, 4651 Park Blvd. – amazing food AND you get to eat it with your fingers!

Q: Where will you find me on a Saturday night if I'm not performing with the Symphony?

A: Mt. Calvary Community at St. Mary's Retreat House, in Santa Barbara, an Episcopal Benedictine Monastery of the Order of the Holy Cross. I am an Associate of the Order, and I will be chanting the Daily Offices with the monks. I go there as often as possible for personal retreats, and several times a year I lead musical retreats for amateur musicians at the monastery. We recently had seven recorder players from the LA Recorder Society, and have had groups of viols, as well as cellos (of course!), flutes, and a very enthusiastic viola player! It's a wonderful place for a rest, spiritual refreshment, and a "time away", on 19 beautiful acres right next to the Old Santa Barbara Mission. And the chef is fantastic! www.mount-calvary.org