



**SMU**<sup>®</sup>

**Samuel S. Holland**  
**Dean of the Meadows School of the Arts**  
**Biography**

Samuel S. Holland has served as Aljur H. Meadows dean of the Meadows School of the Arts since November 2014, after serving as Meadows dean *ad interim* since July 2014. For the past four years, Holland also served as director of the Division of Music at the Meadows School of the Arts. He has provided strong leadership to the Meadows School in both teaching and administrative roles for more than 20 years. Holland joined the Meadows music faculty in 1991, initially serving as head of piano pedagogy and director of the Piano Preparatory Department. In subsequent years, his administrative positions in the Meadows School have included serving as head of the Department of Keyboard Studies and Pedagogy, associate chair and chair *ad interim* of the Division of Music and associate director for academic affairs of the Meadows School. His teaching at SMU has included piano pedagogy, studio piano, computers and keyboards, jazz piano and piano master classes. Before joining the SMU music faculty, Holland taught at the University of Kentucky School of Music and Westminster Choir College of Rider University.

Under Holland's stewardship, the Music Division was named the number one music program in the United States in the 2014 College Factual rankings. Holland's fundraising leadership has helped Meadows School programs obtain more than \$10 million in new giving for piano inventory and programs; renovation of practice facilities; and support for endowed scholarships, new endowed professorships and the ensemble-in-residence program. Holland has extended the Meadows School's reach beyond campus, developing relationships with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Chamber Music Society, Voices of Change, Dallas Bach Society and Allegro Guitar Society.

Beyond his Meadows School responsibilities, Holland is co-founder and executive director of the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy, Inc., a nonprofit educational institution in New Jersey. He is executive director of the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and *Clavier Companion* magazine. He chairs the Committee on Ethics of the Texas Association of Music Schools.

Holland is the author or co-author of more than 70 critically acclaimed method and repertoire collections with major publishers. He is internationally active as a performer and lecturer at music conferences and festivals and has served as founder and executive of national professional conferences and journals. At the international level, Holland has provided leadership for music workshops and lecture/demonstrations in countries including England, Spain, Australia, Hungary, Norway and Canada. He has represented the Meadows Division of Music on visits to the U.K., Japan, Australia, Shanghai, Spain and the People's Republic of China.

Holland has received numerous teaching honors, including the 2015 Teacher of the Year award from the 22,000-member Music Teachers National Association.

Holland earned his Bachelor of Music in applied music *cum laude* from The University of Texas at Austin, followed by a Master of Music in applied music with highest honors at the University of Houston and a Ph.D. in music education with an emphasis in piano pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma.