

**Rudolf Haken** has been on the music faculty of the University of Illinois since 1996, previously having served as viola professor at West Virginia University.

A CD of concertos composed by Rudolf Haken was chosen as an American Record Guide “Critics’ Choice” for 2007. The CD (Centaur 2826) features oboist Nancy Ambrose King, clarinetist Bill King, conductor Julien Benichou, as well as Professor Haken playing a five-string “Pellegrina” viola pomposa built by David Rivinus. According to *The Clarinet* (journal of the International Clarinet Society), “This disc is highly recommended not only for the clarinet work, but also for Haken’s exuberant Americana fiddling style of the viola work and the beautiful and engaging Oboe Concerto.....a joy to experience. This is a winner – guaranteed to bring a smile to your face.” *American Record Guide* states: “Ordinary boundaries do not fence Rudolf Haken in.....He flaunts his fiddling capabilities in a Concerto for Five-String Viola – four wacky but well-crafted movements.....”

In the June 2009 journal of the Australia-New Zealand Viola Society, Paul Groh writes: “I realise that I have compared Haken’s early music favourably to that of some of the greatest composers of the Romantic era, as well as some of the core works in the viola literature. I mean every word. They really are that good... Those of us who carry on a love affair with the viola, whether four-or five-stringed...can applaud the achievements of this extraordinary musician and take pleasure in his contributions to the literature for our instrument... Haken has become an outstanding concert artist, a bold and exciting performer who has toured internationally to great success... His viola works are distinguished by a sensuous lyricism, an exuberant sense of humour, a natural and thorough mastery of compositional technique, and above all an intimate understanding of the technical and expressive capabilities of the viola - a body of work all the more remarkable in that much of it was composed when Haken was still in his teens...Haken, at the same age, had already attained a higher level of development - yes, than the young Felix Mendelssohn.” (The complete article is posted at [www.contemporaryviola.com](http://www.contemporaryviola.com).)

Rudolf Haken has received commissions for compositions in a great variety of styles. Violinist Rachel Barton Pine commissioned his solo violin work “Faust”, in heavy metal style. Korean conductor Maestro Nanse Gum has commissioned Haken to compose an orchestral work based on Korean traditional music. In 1996, Professor Haken was commissioned by the Radiological Consultants Association to compose a trumpet concerto, which was premiered by Paul Merkelo, principal trumpet of the Montreal Symphony. Haken has composed commissioned solo works for violinist Stefan Milenkovich, flutist Jean Ferrandis, Nobel Prize laureate Paul Lauterbur and numerous others.

A 2007 Capstone Records release features Haken performing viola works of Matthew Davidson. Haken has been a featured performer at conventions of the Society of Composers, Inc. and the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States. Professor Haken has performed his *Concerto for Five-String Viola* with several orchestras in North America, South America and Europe. Haken has toured Europe to critical acclaim. The *Badische Zeitung* praised him for his “absolutely infallible

intonation, intense concentration and endless variety of interpretation,” while the Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung lauded him for his “extroverted, resonant tone” and the “delicate, yet strong intensity” of his playing.

Videos of Haken’s compositions and performances can be seen on YouTube. Among these is a video produced by WTTW-Chicago featuring Rudolf Haken performing his transcriptions of Van Halen and Metallica on a Jensen five-string electric viola. This video has been shown frequently in passenger areas at O’Hare and Midway airports in Chicago.

Professor Haken has served on the faculty of the Schlern International Chamber Music Festival (Italian Alps), Michigan City Chamber Music Festival (Indiana), Musikalischer Sommer in Ostfriesland (Germany), Hot Springs Music Festival (Arkansas), Interlochen Music Camp (Michigan All-State), Zomeravond Concerten (Netherlands), Mammoth Lakes Festival (California) and Quartz Mountain Festival (Oklahoma). He has given master classes internationally, with venues including the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, Kookmin and Jungang Universities (South Korea), the University of York (England), the Welsh National Academy of Music and Drama and the Universidade de Caxias do Sul in Brazil. Haken has served as guest violist for the Houston Symphony and Houston Grand Opera, performing under such renowned conductors as Christoph Eschenbach, Michael Tilson Thomas and Neville Marriner. Mr. Haken has performed in London, Beijing and Shanghai as principal violist of the Sinfonia da Camera, and has toured South Korea with the World Symphony Orchestra. Professor Haken has acted as adjudicator for the Houston Symphony Young Artists, Midwest Young Artists, Missouri ASTA and Chicago Viola Society competitions.

Having conducted his first orchestral works at the age of ten, Rudolf Haken studied composition and piano privately for ten years with Hubert Kessler, and viola with Guillermo Perich. Professor Charles DeLaney also had a great influence on Haken’s musical development.

Rudolf Haken’s compositions, recordings and teaching materials can be found on his website, [www.rudolfhaken.com](http://www.rudolfhaken.com).