

Nicholas Walker is an accomplished musician who brings a broad range of training and experience to the string bass: classical and jazz, modern and baroque, solo recitals and chamber ensembles, his enthusiasm and aptitude transcend arbitrary musical boundaries.

Walker earned his DMA in Early Music at Stony Brook University in 2004. Formerly Walker studied with Paul Ellison at the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, where he received a BMA in 1994. Walker has also apprenticed with two master mentors: for three years he toured with swing era saxophone legend Illinois Jacquet, and for the last eighteen years Walker has worked closely with the pioneering maestro of the double bass, François Rabbath. As a Fulbright Scholar (1994-95) he began his training with Rabbath at the Nadia Boulanger Conservatoire de Paris, and has since received two diplomas from L'Institut International François Rabbath, one in performance, and one in teaching.

An inventive composer, Walker features the string bass in chamber music and improvisational contexts. In 1998 the International Society of Bassists awarded him Grand Prize for his composition, *EADG for Solo Bass*. Other commissions include *Little Newt* for the Charlottesville Chamber Music Festival, a sextet, *Magnus Caligus*, and a bass/viola duo, *Song of Freia*, for **Ardesco**, and *Pop Song for String Bass and String Orchestra* for the American String Teachers Association, which Walker has performed with the University of South Carolina Orchestra, the NYASTA Orchestra in Ithaca, at the Autumn Bass Workshop in Adelaide, Australia, in Saratoga Springs, and in Boston.

Walker's exuberant and versatile performances on string bass have made him a sought after performer. He has recorded with **Juan Pablo Torres**, Blossom Dearie, Anny Gould, **Paquito D'Rivera**, and others. During the late 1990s Walker served as music director and band leader of **Bateaux New York**, and also played with a diverse range of New York musicians and artists, including dancers and filmmakers.

As the professor of double bass at Ithaca College, Walker