

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 worked 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.

Walker's exuberant and versatile performances on string bass have made him a sought after performer in many styles. He has given solo bass recitals on four continents, and has performed at music festivals worldwide. Walker has played with jazz masters like [Illinois Jacquet](#), [Hank Jones](#), [Frank Wess](#), [Wynton Marsalis](#), [Steve Turre](#), and [Clark Terry](#), as well as progressive players from a younger generation, [Bill Charlap](#), [John Stetch](#), [Aaron Goldberg](#), [Matt Ray](#), [William 'Beaver' Bausch](#), [Paul Carlon](#), and [John Ellis](#). Walker has recorded with Cuban jazz luminaries, [Juan Pablo Torres](#), [Paquito D'Rivera](#), [Horacio 'El Negro' Hernandez](#), [Jose Fajardo](#), and [Giovanni Hidalgo](#). Walker has also worked with Cabaret artists [Blossom Dearie](#), [Anny Gould](#), [Steve Ross](#) and others, as well as with the bandoneon Tango virtuoso, [Daniel Binelli](#). An active chamber musician, and New Music enthusiast, Walker is a member of the multi-media ensemble, [Ardesco](#), and Pulitzer Prize winning composer Steve Stucky's, [Ensemble X](#). Walker also plays regularly with [The Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra](#), a period instrument ensemble under the direction of [Roger Norrington](#) and [Christopher Hogwood](#).

An inventive composer, Walker features the string bass in solo, 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 New York State American String Teachers Association, which Walker has performed with the University of South Carolina Orchestra, the NYASTA Faculty Orchestra in Ithaca, at the Autumn Bass Workshop in Adelaide, Australia, in Saratoga Springs, in Boston, and with the Cornell Symphony Orchestra. In 2008 his composition, *Paris Skies*, will be featured on a [Hospicare](#) CD, and he will premiere his new new fantasy for bass and piano, which will see a concerto debut with Chris Kim and the Cornell Chamber Orchestra in the spring of 2009.

As the professor of double bass at [Ithaca College](#), Walker demonstrates the art of playing in the broadest sense: he shows the full capacity of the instrument, and guides students to