

## Steven Heffner, Bassist

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### Personal Summary

I am an educator and performer with experience in arranging and composing. Versatility is key to my success and it is paramount to my philosophy of education. Through emphasizing collaboration with other disciplines, promoting musical entrepreneurship, and encouraging multi-genre musical experiences, I give my students the best possible preparation for their musical goals. As an artist, I work to provide examples of transcendent musical moments to captivate and inspire the motivations of my students as well as to fulfill my own artistic aims.

### Education

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| 2009 | Master of Arts in Jazz Pedagogy<br>Thesis: <i>Approaching the Bass: A Book for Students and Teachers</i><br>Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA |
| 2006 | Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Performance: Bass (summa cum laude)<br>Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA                                    |
| 2003 | Columbia Basin College in Pasco, WA<br>Associate of Arts and Sciences                                                                                   |

### Professional Teaching Experience

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| 2015-present | Adjunct Instructor, West Virginia Wesleyan College<br>Applied Bass Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach applied jazz and classical bass to music majors</li><li>• Evaluate juries, recitals, and general progress</li></ul> Studio Classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present weekly sessions on listening, peer performance, and group playing experiences</li></ul> String Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instruct music education majors on fundamental techniques for the violin family including methods for instructing young students and beginning string programs</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2013-present | Adjunct Instructor, Marshall University, Huntington, WV<br>Studio Classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present weekly sessions on bass topics ranging from electric bass playing to classical excerpts</li></ul> Applied Bass (Jazz and Classical) Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach applied bass to music majors</li><li>• Evaluate juries, recitals, and general progress</li></ul> Jazz Improvisation Ensemble (Combo) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determine appropriate literature for educational and thematic purposes</li><li>• Organize concerts in conjunction with other Fine Arts departments</li></ul> Jazz Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach basic chord function through advanced reharmonization via parent scale modification, slash notation, and Coltrane changes</li></ul> Jazz Improvisation II-IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modify curriculum to accommodate class levels and goals</li><li>• Curriculum includes major modes, melodic minor modes, and synthetic scales as well as chordal substitutions and reharmonization in the context of jazz standards</li></ul> |

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|           | Jazz Piano Class                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in bringing jazz piano class objectives in line with current trends</li> <li>• Teach basic piano and jazz theory skills</li> <li>• Introduce basic concepts for shell, Bill Evans, and fourths voicings</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                     |
|           | Applied Cello Instruction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taught cello to majors and minors in preparation for sophomore hearings</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2014-2015 | Guest Lecturer in Recreational Instruments at Ohio University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulated curriculum to benefit interests of music therapy students</li> <li>• Administered lessons in class and evaluations via recordings</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2015      | Guest Lecturer in Aural Skills at Ohio University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitated class in sight singing and intervallic recognition</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2006-2014 | Private Studio Instruction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students ranged from adolescents to adult with varying levels of interest and proficiency</li> <li>• Goals included integrating their interests with practical musical skills to provide a solid foundation for their future endeavors</li> </ul>                                                                                                                             |
| 2013-2014 | Clinician at Ohio University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked with bassists on technique and fundamental walking bass line instruction</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2014      | Clinician at Northview High School Jazz Festival                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided methodical instruction on basic bass methods including right and left hand skills as well as concepts for holding the bass as well as basic theory concepts for walking bass lines</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2012-2014 | Marshall University Bass Faculty for JazzMuTazz Camp                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directed a jazz ensemble in rehearsal and determined appropriate literature</li> <li>• Taught jazz theory</li> <li>• Performed at evening concerts</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2012      | Guest Lecturer in Functional Keyboard Skills at Ohio University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced bass lines in jazz from a bassists perspective</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2011      | Guest Lecturer in Class Piano for Non-Majors at Ohio University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generated and presented short lecture of the jazz music style</li> <li>• Integrated easy blues exercises to engage basic piano skills</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2008-2009 | Clinics at Cheney Middle School, Cheney High School, and Central Valley High School                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvisation clinics determined median skill level of students, introduced simple concepts to encourage soloing in the self-conscious student, and refined the abilities of the more adventurous</li> <li>• Rhythm section clinics presented on surveys of styles, idiomatic ornamentation, and understanding the role of each specific rhythm section instrument</li> </ul> |
| 2007-2009 | Graduate Assistant, Eastern Washington University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|           | Rock and Roll History                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-taught lecture class on American popular music from the 1900 to 2006</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|           | Music in the Humanities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taught music minors and non-majors general music history spanning antiquity to 20<sup>th</sup> century</li> <li>• Generated lesson plans, quizzes, and exams</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|           | Jazz Combo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determined appropriate literature</li> <li>• Taught style and improvisation</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|           | Jazz Band III                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehearsed 16-member jazz ensemble three hours weekly</li> <li>• Determined appropriate literature</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

- Organized concerts and coordinated with guest artists
- 2006-2008 Eastern Washington University Bass Faculty for Jazz Dialogue Camp
- Assisted with jazz bands and jazz combos
  - Taught jazz theory class
  - Presented master classes to bassists
  - Performed at nightly faculty concerts

## Professional Performances

- 2015-present Perform with the Marshall University Faculty Jazz Octet
- 2011-present Bassist for America's Got Talent Season Six winner Landau Eugene Murphy Jr., national and international touring
- 2012-present Perform in Steven Heffner Trio regularly featured at the Blennerhassett Hotel with appearances by Sean Parsons, Matt James, Ryan Kennedy, and Kyle Andrews
- 2012-present Perform in Jessica Baldwin Quintet
- 2013-present Perform with Leonard, Coleman, and Blunt formerly of The Temptations, The Platters, and the Drifters in regional appearances with Landau Eugene Murphy Jr.
- 2014-2015 Perform with the Paramount Players Programs in multiple musicals
- 2015 Performed with Jeff Bush at Marshall University Jazz guest artist concert
- 2015 Performed for International Space University opening ceremonies
- 2015 Performed at Athens Jazz Festival concert with guests James Moore and Jeff Bush
- 2015 Performed with Maniacal 4 Trombone Quartet at Ohio University Trombone Day
- 2015 Performed with Paul Johnson from Eastern Illinois University in Huntington, WV
- 2014 Performed with Huntington Symphony Orchestra in Huntington, WV
- 2014 Performed with Tom Walsh from Indiana University in Huntington, WV
- 2014 Guest artist with Ohio University Wind Ensemble in performance of Shelly Berg's arrangement of "Blackbird"
- 2014 Performed with Jeff Bair from East Carolina University in Huntington, WV
- 2012-2014 Performed with the Irish Tenors at Keith Albee Theatre in Huntington, WV, and West Virginia University
- 2012-2014 Performed with Marietta College "Flood Stage" vocal jazz ensemble
- 2013 Performed with Cave Run Symphony in Morehead, KY
- 2013 Performed with Blood, Sweat & Tears in string section at Keith Albee Theatre in Huntington, WV
- 2013 Performed with Alton Merrell of Pittsburgh at Clarksburg Jazz Stroll in Clarksburg, WV
- 2013 Performed with Huntington Symphony Orchestra in Summer Season performance
- 2012 Performed with Rob Parton of Chicago and Capital University at Marshall University
- 2011-2012 Bassist for Sweet Basil Nonet featuring Ernie Bastin
- 2011-2012 Performed with Vaughn Wiester's Famous Jazz Orchestra in Columbus, OH
- 2011 Performed with Mark Pender and Richie Rosenberg at the Athens Jazz Festival
- 2010 Performed with the Parkersburg Choral Society in Vienna, WV
- 2009-2010 Bassist for Celebrity Cruises Jazz Quartets on Celebrity *Equinox* and *Solstice*
- 2009 Performed in the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra at Clay Center in Charleston, WV
- 2005-2009 Performed with Bill Holman, Matt Harris, Mike Tomaro, and Paul McKee with Eastern Washington University's Jazz Band I in guest artist concerts
- 2006-2009 Bassist in the Don Goodwin Trio; featured at Ella's Supper Club in Spokane, WA
- 2007 Performed with Hal Galper for Spokane Falls Community College Clinic
- 2007 Performed with Sid Jacobs at Ella's Supper Club for Spokane Jazz Guitar Society concerts
- 2005-2007 Performed with the Columbia Basin Jazz Orchestra in Washington State with guest artists including Bill Watrous and Jeff Clayton
- 2006 Performed with tap dancer Arthur Duncan of the Lawrence Welk Show in Richland, WA
- 2005 Bassist for Great American Cruises on the *Columbia Queen* in the Columbia River

2004 Bassist for American West Steamboat Company on the *Empress of the North* in Alaska

## **Recordings**

2015 Bassist on Olivia Brownlee's track "Headin' Right In To Brighton"  
2015 Bassist on Landau: Live in Washington DC  
2014 Bassist on Matt James' CD "Opening Lines"  
2013 Strings, bass, and horn arrangements on Central Avenue Church CD "No Other Refuge"  
2012 Bassist on Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. CD "Christmas Made For Two"  
2008 Bassist on Eastern Washington University Jazz Ensemble I CD  
2006 String parts on Marshall McLean's CD "Heaven's Grey"

## **Honors and Affiliations:**

2011-present Member of the American Federation of Musicians  
2009-2014 Member of the International Society of Bassists  
2003 Lionel Hampton Outstanding Soloist

## **Education/Private Instruction**

### **Jazz/Improvisation**

Todd DelGiudice: Improvisation, Jacksonville, FL  
Rob Tapper: Improvisation, Missoula, MT  
Dominik Wania: Improvisation, Poland  
Jon Hamer: Jazz Bass, Seattle, WA  
Erik Applegate: Jazz Bass, Greeley, CO

### **Classical Double Bass**

Kim Plewniak: Assistant Principal, Spokane Symphony, Spokane, WA  
Eugene Jablonsky, Spokane WA  
David Messina: West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Charleston, WV