

About the Workshop

The Hammond Ashley workshop offers a highly concentrated study of the double bass! Activities will include technique classes, solo classes, orchestral excerpts classes, jazz instruction, bass ensembles, faculty recitals, and student recitals.

The teacher in-service bass intensive is designed specifically for teachers who primarily play other instruments and would like to further develop their bass skills for the classroom.

History of the Workshop

The Hammond Ashley Memorial Double Bass Workshop has had hundreds of bassists improve their skills since 1993. Mr. Ashley attended the very first workshop, passed away shortly thereafter, and the following years have been dedicated to his memory. Under the direction of international double bass soloist and pedagogue, Jeff Bradetich, bassists from age 8 to 78 have benefitted from his influence and teaching. Faculty have included bassists from Seattle Symphony, Oregon Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, The Cleveland Orchestra, and Washington State's top bass teachers. Some attendees are now in major orchestras, and bass teachers themselves. From beginners to developing professionals, and every bassist in between, all are welcome to share the love of our instrument, the double bass, at this workshop.

Jeff Bradetich gave his professional concerto debut at the age of 16 and was appointed to the orchestra of the Lyric Opera of Chicago by age 19. He was hailed as "...the master of his instrument" by the *New York Times* following his New York debut in 1982.

He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Northwestern University and taught at the Interlochen Arts Academy, University of Michigan and Northwestern prior to his 1994 appointment as director of the largest double bass program in the world at the University of North Texas. His students hold positions in major orchestras on six continents and occupy many important teaching and leadership positions throughout the profession.

2021 marks the 34th year of his summer master classes offered in the US and Europe. He established the Bradetich Foundation in 2008 dedicated to the advancement of the double bass. The Foundation has hosted two International Double Bass Solo Competitions offering a first prize valued at more than \$30,000.

His book – *Double Bass: The Ultimate Challenge*, on pedagogy and performance on the bass is now available on ebooks in English, Spanish and Mandarin along with a complete video series from www.miabass.org. His newest CD titled "The 3 B's by Bradetich" includes the 4th Bach Suite, 2nd Beethoven cello Sonata and the Bloch Schelomo.

Todd Gowers has been performing and teaching the double bass for over 30 years. Formerly a member of the Northwest Chamber Orchestra and principal bassist with Tacoma Symphony, he has performed, toured, and recorded with the Seattle Symphony as a substitute bassist for 25 years. He has been first call bassist for Broadway tours and productions at the 5th Avenue and Paramount Theaters in Seattle since 1995. As a recording bassist, Todd has played on hundreds

of movie soundtracks, and with artists such as Dave Matthews and Evanescence, some of which have won Grammy Awards. He has performed with every major ensemble in Seattle, including Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Northwest Sinfonietta. Other artists he has performed and worked with are: The Who; Yes; Luciano Pavarotti; The Moody Blues; Philip Glass; The Bolshoi Ballet; and Weird Al Yankovic. Todd also plays jazz and has been part of Seattle's Earshot Jazz Festival. Mr. Gowers has been adjunct professor of bass at Seattle Pacific University since 1997.

Anna Jensen's passion for music translates to her deep involvement in music education. In addition to instructing positions at Central Washington University and Pacific Lutheran University, Dr. Jensen conducts two of the orchestras at the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association and maintains a large private studio. She is currently the education manager for the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association and is the festival manager for the Evergreen Music Festival. Her double bass students have placed in the top three at the state level numerous times and frequently win concerto competitions across the region. Recently, Dr. Jensen was the recipient of "Outstanding Master Studio Teacher" award by the American String Teachers' Association – WA Chapter award and the "Friend of Music Award" by Washington State Music Educators Association.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Jensen is the assistant principal bassist of Symphony Tacoma, the principal bassist of the Tacoma Opera Orchestra, and regularly performs with orchestras across the region. Receiving her doctorate in musical arts degree in double bass performance at the University of Michigan, she studied with Dr. Diana Gannett and was a graduate student instructor. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan (DMA and MM) and Central Washington University (BM) and has been the recipient of the Mildred Tuttle Fellowship, the Farrell Merit Scholarship-Grant and was awarded the Presser Scholar. When not performing or teaching, Anna enjoys going on adventures with her spouse and four young children.

Joe Dyvig teaches orchestra at Olympia High School and is the Olympia School District's Music Coordinator. He achieved National Board Certified Teacher status in 2010. Mr. Dyvig earned his Masters of Music Education degree in 2007 from the University of North Texas where he was a teaching assistant to Jeff Bradetich, as well as the master teacher for the University String Project. At the University of Washington, he studied double bass with Barry Lieberman and both tuba and conducting with Tim Salzman.

Joe has frequently presented at the WMEA and Northwest NAFME conference, is a staff member of the Birch Bay String Teachers Workshop and is active as an adjudicator throughout the region. He is currently serving on the WMEA board as the Administration Curriculum Officer and previously was the Treasure/Secretary, and Orchestra Curriculum officer. Working with a group of dedicated staff members Joe created the Lake Samish Music Camp in Bellingham, which had its inaugural summer in 2010. Joe plays double bass in Symphony Tacoma, and lives in rural Thurston County with his wife Lisa and two children, Jorie and Luke.

Chris Burns is principal bassist of Symphony Tacoma. He is also an active freelance musician, performing regularly with the Seattle Symphony, Seattle Opera, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. Chris has been a featured soloist in concerto performances with Symphony Tacoma, Butte Symphony, and the University of Montana Orchestra, as well as in numerous recitals and chamber music collaborations. Chris earned his Bachelors of Music from the New England Conservatory in Boston, and was a Fulbright Scholar at the Universität für Musik in Vienna, Austria. In addition to his performing career, Chris is also the orchestra director at Narrows View Intermediate School in the University Place School District, WA, and was named the 2015 UPSD "Teacher of the Year."

Bryce Van Parys grew up in the East Renton Highlands, and graduated from Liberty High School in the Issaquah School district in 1993. He attended Central Washington University, and received a Bachelor's degree in Strings Performance on Double Bass under the Tutelage of John Michel. Dr. Anna Jensen and Bryce were both undergraduate students at CWU in 1996-97

Bryce got his first bass from Hammond Ashley while Hammond was still living, from the Des Moines WA location in 1992. He frequented the shop so much as a customer, that Hammond's grandson, Paul Ashley, offered him a sales position upon graduation from Central in 1997. He ascended to General Manager and has been in charge of operations for 25 years.

Bryce has been a member of the Yakima Symphony Orchestra, the Bellevue Philharmonic Orchestra, the Symphony Tacoma, the NW Sinfonietta, and various bands and movie recording gigs since the early 1990s. He is married to Percussionist and teacher Amy Putnam, and has 2 children, Charlie and Allie.

Tommy Hawthorne is equally devoted to music performance and education. Tommy is a double bassist familiar with the instrument from every angle. Shaped from his early experiences as a student in the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association, Tommy has gone on to expand his involvement in their summer music festivals both as a bass coach and as the on-site manager. He continues his interest in this line of work serving as the general manager for the Everett Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since returning to Washington state from graduate studies, Tommy has become a frequently called upon freelance player, having subbed extensively with the Symphony Tacoma bass section and with many other groups in the area including Tacoma City Ballet, Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra, and Great Bend Center for Music among others.

Holding his graduate and bachelor's degrees from the University of Michigan (MM and BM), Tommy has had the opportunity to study double bass under the tutelage of many instructors including Dr. Diana Gannett, Scott Pingel, Maximillian Dimoff, and Ranaan Meyer. When not playing bass, Tommy can be found hiking trails, disc golfing, or playing a board game with his friends and family.

Rosemary Ponnekanti is a writer, musician, multimedia storyteller and festival director. She has lived on three continents with a career ranging from professional classical double bassist and church organist to magazine editor, newspaper journalist and digital content creator. She created and directs two free arts festivals: Tacoma Ocean Fest and Tacoma Light Trail, and creates her own compositions on looping bass inspired by (and often including) nature. In her spare time, Rosemary likes traveling, swimming and aerial circus. Find her at rosemaryponnekanti.com, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [SoundCloud](#).