

Curriculum Vitae  
**DENNIS JOEL MARKS**  
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**EDUCATION**

**MASTER OF MUSIC**, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 1990-1992  
*Degree in Studio Jazz Writing*  
• Graduated cum laude

**BACHELOR OF MUSIC**, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 1985-1989  
*Degree in Studio Music and Jazz Performance*  
• Graduated cum laude

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA**, Jacksonville, Florida 2005 - present  
*Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies*  
*Teaching duties include:*

- Evolution of Jazz
- Individual Applied Piano
- Jazz Improvisation I
- Jazz Piano I
- Jazz Ensemble II
- Individual Applied Bass
- Jazz Improvisation II
- Enjoyment of Music

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**, Miami, Florida 1996-2005  
*Adjunct Instructor*  
*Teaching duties included:*

- Jazz Styles and Analysis
- Individual Applied Acoustic Bass
- Individual Applied Electric Bass
- Jazz Combo
- Jazz Big Band

**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**, Coral Gables, Florida 2003-2005  
*Adjunct Faculty*  
*Teaching duties included:*

- Individual Applied Acoustic Bass
- Individual Applied Electric Bass

**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**, Coral Gables, Florida 1990-1992  
*Graduate Assistant*  
*Teaching duties included:*

- Individual Applied Acoustic Bass
- Director of several small ensembles
- Individual Applied Electric Bass

## **DESCRIPTION OF COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Jazz Styles and Analysis**

This is a graduate level course tracing the development of jazz styles from ragtime to jazz/rock fusion, including Dixieland, Swing, Bebop, Cool Jazz, Hard Bop, Modal, and the Avant-garde. Emphasis is placed on the innovations of Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, and Miles Davis. Students are required to demonstrate knowledge of each stylistic period by presenting oral and written reports focusing on a particular artist.

### **Jazz Combo**

This is a graduate/undergraduate level course providing students an opportunity to perform in a variety of small group settings. Students shall develop skills enabling them to master numerous musical situations. Emphasis is placed on tune memorization from the “Standards” repertoire, proficiency on the student’s individual instrument, and the ability to improvise in a variety of idioms. Students are encouraged to rehearse and perform original compositions and arrangements.

### **Jazz Big Band**

This class is a graduate/undergraduate level course providing students an opportunity to perform in a big band ensemble. All styles of big band jazz are explored, from Swing through Funk Rock and the Avant-garde, including such notable writers as Sammy Nestico, Bob Mintzer, Matt Harris, and Maria Schneider. Students shall develop skills in all areas of ensemble execution including dynamics, balances, intonation, attacks and releases, sight-reading, improvisation, and interaction with the rhythm section. Students are also encouraged to rehearse and perform original compositions and arrangements.

### **Individual Applied Acoustic Bass**

A comprehensive overview of acoustic bass styles from Jimmy Blanton through John Patitucci, including Ray Brown, Paul Chambers, Scott LaFaro, and Ron Carter is offered. The student is required to demonstrate technical proficiency on the instrument, including scales and arpeggios, as a prerequisite for jazz studies. Much emphasis is placed on improvisation, including chord-scale theory, major modes, melodic minor modes, harmonic minor modes, pentatonic/diminished scales and transcription analysis. Tune memorization, ear training, and keyboard skills are also addressed.

### **Individual Applied Electric Bass**

A comprehensive overview of electric bass styles from Monk Montgomery to Victor Wooten, including Larry Graham, Bootsy Collins, Jaco Pastorius, Marcus Miller, and Stanley Clarke is offered. The student is required to demonstrate technical proficiency on the instrument, including scales and arpeggios, as a prerequisite for jazz studies. Much emphasis is placed on improvisation, including chord-scale theory, major modes, melodic minor modes, harmonic minor modes, pentatonic/diminished scales, and transcription analysis. Tune memorization, ear training, and keyboard skills are also addressed.

### **Enjoyment of Music**

This class is a comprehensive overview of the history of Western Music from the middle Ages through the current century. Emphasis is placed on the “Classical” repertoire in order to give students knowledge and appreciation for this idiom. Composers studied include Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Debussy, and Ravel. Also included are Wagner, Copeland, Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Berg, Varese, and Cage.

### **Evolution of Jazz**

This is a humanities course designed to meet the general education requirements as outlined in the school's academic charter. This course is designed to give non-music majors an appreciation and understanding of the evolution of jazz styles. Through the use of video and audio footage, students can learn to enjoy the various aspects of the jazz language.

### **Jazz Improvisation**

This class is a comprehensive overview of the mechanics involved in jazz improvisation. The undergraduate course focuses on developing the ability to spontaneously create viable musical contributions, while simultaneously grasping the theoretical implications of the musical statements. In order to facilitate this goal, examples and assignments are utilized from the Great American Songbook, as well as more modern jazz repertoire.

## **MASTER CLASSES AND CLINICS**

- **Clinic, Florida Music Education Association Conference** January 10, 2009  
*Tampa, Florida*
- **Master Class, University of New Orleans** October 15, 2008  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*
- **Master Class, University of North Florida** July 3, 2006  
*Jacksonville, Florida*
- **Jazz Forum, University of Miami** February 10, 2006  
*Coral Gables, Florida*
- **Clinic, University of Illinois** October 2, 2003  
*Champaign-Urban, Illinois*
- **Jazz Forum, University of Miami** September 5, 2003  
*Coral Gables, Florida*
- **Clinic, University of Illinois** January 24, 2003  
*Champaign-Urban, Illinois*
- **Concert and Clinic, Virginia Polytechnic and State University** November 8-9, 2000  
*Blacksburg, Virginia*
- **Concert and Clinic, Virginia Polytechnic and State University** May 5-6, 1999  
*Blacksburg, Virginia*
- **Various Master Classes and Clinics with Arturo Sandoval** 1997 - 2009
- **Various Master Classes and Clinics with Maynard Ferguson** 1992 - 1993

## **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

- **Arturo Sandoval, Bassist, Composer, Arranger** 1997 – present  
*Tours of North America, Europe, South America, and Asia*
- **Woody Herman's Thundering Herd, Bassist** 1994 - 1996  
*Tours of North America and Europe*
- **Maynard Ferguson's Big Bop Nouveau, Bassist** 1992 – 1993  
*Tours of North America, South America, and Asia*

## ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES WITH THE FOLLOWING 1985 - Present

- Mose Allison
- Debbie Allen
- Lynn Ariale
- Michael Brecker
- Randy Brecker
- Bob Brookmeyer
- Boston Pops Orchestra
- Buffalo Symphony
- Hiram Bullock
- Cincinnati Symphony
- Gary Campbell
- Dallas Symphony
- Paquito D'Rivera
- Noel Freidline
- Dizzy Gillespie
- Billy Hart
- Jimmy Heath
- Eddie Higgins
- Bruce Hornsby
- Duffy Jackson
- David Liebman
- Los Angeles Philharmonic
- Rob McConnell
- Jim McNeely
- Pat Metheny
- Bob Mintzer
- Othello Mollineaux
- National Symphony
- Bernadette Peters
- Portland Symphony
- Flip Phillips
- Tito Puente
- Kenny Rankin
- Darius Rucker
- San Antonio Symphony
- San Diego Symphony
- San Jose Symphony
- Maria Schneider
- Jon Secada
- Lonnie Smith
- Ira Sullivan
- Toronto Symphony
- Jaci Velasquez
- Nicole Yarling

## PERFORMED AT THE FOLLOWING VENUES 1985 - Present

- Allotria, *Munich Germany*
- Aspen Music Festival, *Colorado*
- Augsburger Jazzstage, *Germany*
- Bakersfield Jazz Fest, *California*
- Blue Note, *Fukuoka, Japan*
- Blue Note, *Tokyo, Japan*
- Blue Note, *New York City*
- Blue Alley, *Washington, D.C.*
- Bombay Jazz Festival, *India*
- Clearwater Jazz Holiday, *Florida*
- Cork-Guinness Jazz Festival, *Ireland*
- Epcot Center, *Orlando, Florida*
- Festival Miami, *Coral Gables, Florida*
- Redwood Coast Music Festival, *California*
- Hard Rock Cafe, *Mexico City*
- Hollywood Jazz Festival, *Florida*
- Hollywood Bowl, *Los Angeles, California*
- Imatra Big Band Festival, *Finland*
- International Jazz Fest, *Bern, Switzerland*
- Istanbul Jazz Festival, *Turkey*
- Iridium Jazz Club, *New York City*
- Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival, *Canada*
- Wein Jazz Fest, *Vienna, Austria*
- Jazz Alley, *Seattle, Washington*
- Jazz Jamboree, *Warsaw, Poland*
- Jazz Fest, *Rottweill, Germany*
- JVC Jazz Festival, *New York City*
- Kennedy Center, *Washington D.C.*
- Latin Jazz Fest, *Fort Myers, Florida*
- Litchfield Jazz Festival, *Connecticut*
- Los Angeles Jazz Festival, *California*
- Montreal Jazz Festival, *Canada*
- Newport Jazz on the Water Festival, *Oregon*
- Newport Jazz Festival, *Rhode Island*
- Northsea Jazz Festival, *Netherlands*
- Ottawa Jazz Festival, *Canada*
- Pescara Jazz Festival, *Italy*
- Playboy Jazz Festival, *Los Angeles, California*
- Quasimodo, *Berlin, Germany*
- Freiburger Jazzstage, *Germany*
- Ronnie Scotts, *London, England*
- Savannah Jazz Festival, *Savannah, Georgia*
- Scullers, *Boston, Massachusetts*
- Stockholm Jazz Fest, *Sweden*
- Sydney Opera House, *Sydney, Australia*
- The Jazz Showcase, *Chicago, Illinois*
- The Green Mill, *Chicago, Illinois*
- Jackie Gleason Theater, *Miami Beach, Florida*
- Jacksonville Jazz Fest, *Jacksonville, Florida*
- Wigan Jazz Fest, *Vienna, Austria*
- Yoshi's, *San Francisco, California*
- Zanzibar Jazz Club, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

## COMMISSIONS

- **Arranged “The Swan”** by Camille Saint-Saens  
*for Jazz Big Band and Euphonium, featuring Dr. Marc Dickman* (2009)
- **Arranged “Babes of Cancun”** by Ronald Miller  
*for the Cool Breeze Quartet, Milwaukee Flute Quartet* (2003)
- **Composed and Arranged “Trials and Tribulations”**  
*for Doug Bickel’s City of Rhythm* (2003)
- **Transcribed and Arranged “When Its Sleepy Time Down South”** by Louis Armstrong  
*for Arturo Sandoval’s Trumpet Evolution* (2003)
- **Composed and Arranged two pieces, “Departure” and “Time Before”**  
*for Arturo Sandoval’s My Passion for the Piano* (2002)
- **Transcribed and Arranged a big band version of “John Mckee”**  
*for Pat Metheny and the University of Miami Concert Jazz Band* (1991)
- **Composed and arranged “Building Houses”**  
*for Active Ingredients’ premiere recording Building Houses* (1988)

## DISCOGRAPHY

Acoustic Bass and/or Electric Bass on the following albums:

- **Dennis Marks, Barry Greene, and Danny Gottlieb, *Trio***, (2009), pending release on TrueFire Incorporated (interactive video course)
- **Dennis Marks and Doug Bickel, *Finding Your Way***, (2009), contract pending with ZOHO Music
- **Bill Prince, *The Music of Bob Friedman***, (2007), independent release (2007)
- **Arturo Sandoval, *Live at the Blue Note*** (2005), Halfnote 4522
- **Arturo Sandoval, *Trumpet Evolution*** (2003), Columbia CK 87195
- **Chip McNeill, *Radio Improved*** (2003), RI 01762
- **Arturo Sandoval, *My Passion for the Piano*** (2002), Columbia CK 86374
- **Mark Hetzler, *American Voices*** (2001), Summit Records CDC-331
- **Frankie V, *Smooth Ride*** (2001), VEE Records 0124-2
- **Lisanne Lyons, *Right as the Rain*** (2000), Housekat Records KHR-001
- **Joe Donato, *For Friends*** (2000), Vision Records33522
- **Mo Morgan, *Singin’ Saxy*** (2000), Mojazzmania 75002
- **Arturo Sandoval, *Americana***, (1999), N Coded Music NC 4205-2
- **Arturo Sandoval, *Hot House*** (1998), N2K Music, N2K-10023
- **Eric Allison, *After Hours*** (1997), Fantasy/Contemporary Records CCD-14088-2
- **Billy Marcus, *Home*** (1997), Fantasy/Contemporary Records CCD-14083-2
- **Dennis Marks, *Images*** (1996), Fantasy/Contemporary Records CCD-14081-2
- **Eric Allison, *Mean Streets Beat*** (1996), Fantasy/Contemporary Records CCD-14080-2
- **Arturo Sandoval, *Danzon*** (1994), GRP GRD-9761
- **University of Miami Concert Jazz Band, *Get a Grip*** (1994), DIDX 023741
- **Maynard Ferguson, *Footpath Café*** (1993), Hotshot Records, CD 8312-2
- **David Lahm, *Muscle Memory Hoedown*** (1990), Generation Records GR 301
- **University of Miami Funk/Fusion Ensemble (Active Ingredient), *Building Houses*** (1988), Bainbridge Records BCD2101

## **TELEVISION APPEARANCES**

- CBS Television Network's "Craig Kilborn Show" (2004)
- A&E Network's "Breakfast with the Arts" Show (2003)
- Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon. (2002)
- July 4 Special with Boston Pops Orchestra (2000)
- Playboy Jazz Festival, Los Angeles, CA. (1998)
- Newport Jazz Festival with Arturo Sandoval, Newport, RI (1998)
- Bayfront Music Festival with Arturo Sandoval, Miami, FL (1998)
- Clearwater Jazz Holiday with Paquito D'Rivera, Clearwater, FL (1997)
- Warsaw Jazz Jamboree with Maynard Ferguson, Warsaw Poland (1992)
- Cork-Guinness Jazz Festival with Maynard Ferguson, Ireland. (1992)
- Hollywood Jazz Festival with Bob Brookmeyer and the University of Miami Concert Jazz Band, Hollywood, FL (1989)
- Clearwater Jazz Holiday with University of Miami "Horace Silver Ensemble", Clearwater, FL (1987)

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

- *Jazz Times and Billboard*: 1996. Reviewed CD "Images" by Dennis Marks, 1996, produced by the legendary Bob Weinstock.
- *Jazz Times*: April 1997 "Bassist Dennis Marks leads a mainstream quintet through nine originals with arrangements that give soloists occasions to unfold...a meaningful debut"
- *Billboard*: April 12, 1997 "Another musical hurricane from South Florida whose tunes may have the stamp of future jazz standards."

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- American Federation of Musicians, Local 655 1985-present
- BMI, Broadcast Music Incorporated 1996-present
- College Music Society 2001-present
- NARAS, National Association of Recording Artists 1998-present
- FMEA/MENC, Florida Music Educators Association 2008-present

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- Deebee Award, Best College Instrumental Small Group (with University of Miami “Bebop Ensemble”), Downbeat Magazine (1986)
- Deebee Award, Best College Instrumental Small Group (with University of Miami “Priority”), Downbeat Magazine (1989)
- Deebee Award, Best College Big Band (with University of Miami Concert Jazz Band) Downbeat Magazine (1989)
- Program Directors Award, Studio Music and Jazz, University of Miami (1989)
- Provosts Honor Roll, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL (1989)
- Certificate of Appreciation, Outstanding Service to Jazz Education, IAJE Conference, Miami, FL. (1992)
- Certificate of Appreciation, Outstanding Service to Jazz Education, IAJE Conference, New York City (1997)

## **PUBLISHED MATERIALS**

- “Direct Line” Prestige Music BMI (1996)
- “What the Devil...” Prestige Music BMI (1996)
- “Private Island” Prestige Music BMI (1996)
- “Images” Prestige Music BMI (1996)
- “Here Doggie” Prestige Music BMI (1996)
- “The Great Deceiver” Prestige Music BMI (1996)
- “Nodes” Prestige Music BMI (1996)
- “Da Blues” Prestige Music BMI (1996)
- “The Swan” UNC Press (in process of submission) BMI (2009)
- “Turnover” contract pending with Zoho Music BMI (2009)
- “Sparrows and Sidewinders” contract pending with Zoho Music BMI (2009)

- “Truncated Theme” contract pending with Zoho Music BMI (2009)

## **REFERENCES**

- **Professor Barry Greene**, Director of Jazz Guitar  
University of North Florida  
Department of Music  
1 UNF Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32224-2659  
Phone: (904) 620-2961  
E-mail: [bgreene@unf.edu](mailto:bgreene@unf.edu)
- **Dr. Bill Prince**, Professor Emeritus  
University of North Florida  
Department of Music  
1 UNF Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32224-2659  
Phone: (904) 620-2961  
E-mail: [wprince@unf.edu](mailto:wprince@unf.edu)
- **Professor Whitney Sidener**, Director of Jazz Studies  
University of Miami  
Frost School of Music  
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- **Associate Professor Gary Lindsay**, Director of Studio/Jazz composition  
University of Miami  
Frost School of Music  
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- **Associate Professor Gary Campbell**, Director of Jazz Studies  
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