

## Jeffrey Campbell

b. 1963

**Education and Training:** Degrees in double bass performance and music education: BM, BYU, 1990; MM, DMA Eastman School of Music, 1992, 2002



Campbell has also studied bass with John F. Clark, James VanDenmark, Jeffrey Turner, and Robert Zimmerman, and jazz composition with Bill Dobbins and Fred Sturm.

**Job Position in 2006:** Associate professor of jazz studies and contemporary media at Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

ECMS collegiate instructor in jazz double bass and in jazz combo and improvisation

**Family:** Campbell is married to the former Sharleen Pedersen; they have six children. They live in Rochester, NY.

**Career:** Campbell grew up in Bountiful, UT. His music education began at an early age under the influence of his professional-musician parents. As a young musician, Campbell received much of his musical training by working with local professional musicians in a myriad of musical styles and venues. Through these experiences, Campbell developed a healthy balance between the artistic and practical issues faced by today's professional musician.

Campbell has carved out an impressive career as a bass player of extraordinary artistry, fluent in both jazz and classical idioms. As a jazz bassist he maintains an active schedule, performing with Marian McPartland, Gene Bertoncini, Rich Perry, Harold Jones, Trio East, and the Eastman Jazz Quartet, featuring Harold Danko. Campbell has also appeared on McPartland's *Piano Jazz* program on National Public Radio. In high demand across the globe, Campbell has performed at such prestigious European musical events as the Nice, Montreux, North Sea, Riga, and Parnu jazz festivals and has also played in the former Soviet Union and the Baltic Republics. His first CD, *West End Avenue*, with John Hollenbeck and John Wojciechowski, features a combination of original compositions and jazz standards. Additionally, Campbell is a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra bass section. His summers are occupied with the [Birch Creek Music Performance Center](#) in Door County, WI, where he serves as program director, and with the Eastman Summer Jazz Studies and Bass Day, of which he is co-director.

In addition to a busy performing schedule, Campbell maintains an active career as a jazz educator, with a keen interest in bass playing of the past, present, and future. A full-time professor at Eastman since 1997, he teaches jazz bass, jazz history, jazz theory and aural skills, and small group performance. He is a regular contributor to *Double Bassist* magazine and is the jazz editor of *Bass World*, the official publication of the International Society of Bassists. Campbell's book (in preparation for publication) on the famous Duke Ellington-Jimmy Blanton duets provides bassists with an opportunity to study the bass playing of the great Jimmy Blanton.

### Questions and Comments

*What advice would you give to young people in this field?*

You have to have a balance between artistry, integrity, practicality, and good people skills. Nobody has ever asked to see my degree or my diploma at a concert. I have also had to have flexibility. In addition to teaching at Eastman, I am also in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and that allows me more professional opportunities. Playing in the orchestra one week refreshes my jazz for the next week and vice versa.

*What brings you the most happiness and satisfaction in your career?*

Playing with good musicians

*What frustrates you the most?*

Playing for people who don't appreciate what you are doing. Playing with musicians who play too busy or too much.

*Has being an active member of the Church affected your work?*

Never in a negative way. I think only in a positive way. I have six children. I am a jazz musician who plays late at night and I teach early morning seminary right now, which makes it very interesting. I have had a couple of flattering phone calls from BYU asking about my possibly working there. But if I move back to Utah, I would be one of thousands of LDS faculty members, and then there would be none here.

*How and why did you choose to work in this field?*

I don't know. My father is a jazz musician: he plays timpani and leads the percussion section. He was on the faculty at BYU and taught there for a long time; he actually started Synthesis with Newell Dayley. My parents are now the missionaries for the choir library. There were five boys in the family and all are musicians. The musical environment in our home was very strong. I kept thinking I wanted to be a mechanical engineer, but I never knew where the engineering building was. I still enjoy mechanical things. I work on my own cars, and I built our kitchen cabinets.

*Are there any Websites you would recommend for young people who are interested in this field?*

One of the good Websites I like is [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com). It's the commercial side of jazz. It has nothing to do with education per se, but everything to do about who is making records.

*Are there some must read, see, or hear items you would recommend?*

It would be good to be involved—to have an eye on the trade magazines. There is a magazine, *Jazz Time*, that can help you be alert to what is going on.

#### **Notes and Quotes:**

Reviews of his CD *West End Avenue*:

The music is serious without being pretentious— thoughtful and open, yet groovy and swinging. Campbell is a strong player with a classic upright sound, great intonation, and chops to spare. —*Bass Player*

Campbell bridges the span between melody and rhythm well when backing, and his moments in the spotlight are inventive and controlled. . . . *Tone Poem for the Desert* has a sound-painting intro made all the more intriguing by Campbell's clever use of his bow to simulate the berimbau. —[allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com)

[Campbell has] got great tone, fast fingers, and sure articulation. It takes real chops to play the busy bass parts of *Tone Poem for the Desert* for over seven minutes; Campbell handles it with no strain. —*Cadence Magazine*

**Jeff Campbell's Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra page**

**Jeff Campbell**

**Instrument:** Double Bass

**With the RPO since:** 1994

**Favorite time of year in Rochester:** The months of May and September; not too cold, not too hot.

**Hometown:** Salt Lake City, UT

**Drink or food you're most likely to order at Java's:** A peanut butter cookie

**When not performing with the RPO, you can find me . . .** teaching in the Jazz Department at the Eastman School or working on the one-pipe steam heat system in my house.

**First music-related memory:** Taking a Woody Herman record to nursery school.

**I decided to be a professional musician when . . .** I played my first gig at 12 years old in the mountain town of Coleville, UT.

**Favorite travel destination:** New Zealand

**Influential teachers:** Stephen Richins, John F. Clark, Robert Campbell

**Favorite ice cream flavor:** West India Licorice Mocha Delight

**What are your other "hidden" talents:** I enjoy working on my cars (most of the time). I also made the kitchen cabinets in our house.

**Do you teach private students?** Yes.

**What other orchestras have you performed with?** Since I'm primarily a jazz musician, the RPO is the only orchestra I've ever played with.

**Oddest RPO concert memory:** When we performed with Shakesperian actors from Geva Theatre and they "drew" their swords on the cello section.

**Favorite restaurant in town:** I like the fish and chips at O'Malleys.

**What types of music do you like to listen to?** I like almost any kind of quality music.

**Do you have a pet?** I don't have a pet, but I do have six children: Nelsen, Weston, Louisa, Gibby, Jack, and Lydia.

**The RPO is essential to Rochester because . . .** It provides high quality musical opportunities for both listener and performer.

**My favorite part of working in the RPO is . . .** My friends in the bass section.

**If someone were visiting Rochester, what would you tell them to go see or do?** The George Eastman House, the Frank Lloyd Wright house on East Blvd., the Park Avenue area, and my favorite store: House Parts.

## **Biography**

Jeffrey Campbell is an associate professor of Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media at [Eastman School of Music](#). He is widely recognized for his versatile skills as performer and teacher of double bass and is active as a musician with the RPO, Eastman Jazz Quartet, and Trio East. He has performed with Marian McPartland, Gene Bertoncini, Rich Perry, and Harold Danko, and released a new CD, [West End Avenue](#), featuring John Hollenbeck. He is jazz editor for *Bass World* and serves as Jazz Program Director for [Birch Creek Music Center](#) in Door County, WI.

**Other sources of information:**

[www.esm.rochester.edu/faculty/?id=55](http://www.esm.rochester.edu/faculty/?id=55)

Sound Files at site above:

“West End Avenue”

“How Deep is the Ocean”

“Song for Ped”

Review of Jeffery’s latest CD is at: [www.allaboutjazz.com](http://www.allaboutjazz.com)