



PETER PAULSEN BIO

Peter Paulsen is currently Assistant Professor of Double Bass/Jazz Studies at West Chester University and is Section Bass with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Principal Bass of the Allentown Symphony Orchestra and has been Principal Bass with the Spoleto Festival Orchestra in Spoleto, Italy. He is a member of the International Society of Bassists and an active composer of works for his instrument, receiving three prestigious Pennsylvania Council on the Arts composition grants and a residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada.

He released his first CD as a leader on R&L Records, "Three-Stranded Cord", for jazz quintet which received national airplay and high reports on Jazzweek and CJM (college radio) charts. Peter can be heard on the 2005 Wahbo Records release, "Useful Music" by the Jeff Baumeister Quartet and Mr. Paulsen's trio CD release on Wahbo Records, "Tri-cycle", which features compositions that won him a third PCA composition grant. He was the recipient of the 2007 PEW Fellowship in Music Composition, resulting in his third CD release, Peter Paulsen "Change of Scenery" Sextet, on Wahbo Records. Upon receiving an invitation from the Robert & Lina Thyll-Durr Foundation to participate in a two-week composition residency at Casa Zia Lina on the Isle of Elba, Italy, Mr. Paulsen began work on a piece resulting in a new song cycle, "The Wild Iris," a setting of three texts by Louise Gluck. His fourth recording, "Goes Without Saying" Peter Paulsen Quintet, has been released on SquarePegWorks and is gaining considerable airplay/print review attention.

Mr. Paulsen is founder/director/bassist of TurksHeadKnot Contemporary Music Ensemble. THK has presented numerous premiers of commissioned works for the ensemble and premiered both Mr. Paulsen's song cycle "The Wild Iris", a second song cycle, "Songs of Late Summer" ...settings of poems by Stanley Kunitz, Anne Sexton and Galway Kinnell, and recently premiered his newly composed four movement work, "Shanghied Paisano", in collaboration with the Dali String Quartet. A brand-new recording, Peter Paulsen Trio "A Few Thoughts" has been released on CD by SquarePegWorks.