The Double Bass program at Washburn University gives bassists an opportunity to participate in a wide variety of ensembles. Bassists at Washburn can participate in all major instrumental ensembles, including Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, Jazz Big Bands and Combos, Wind Ensemble, and Athletic Bands. Each bass player receives a weekly lesson with Mr. Lewis, focusing on technique, musicianship, solo repertoire, and jazz bass. Also, bassists at Washburn meet for a weekly bass class with Mr. Lewis where bass ensemble repertoire (duos, trios, quartets, etc.) is rehearsed and performed. The bass class setting is also used to work on other areas of bass playing such as warmup exercises, technique building, and orchestral repertoire.

Bassists at Washburn enjoy a close camaraderie and supportive atmosphere that is reflected by the Washburn University Music Department as a whole. Bass players at Washburn can choose to major in Music Performance, Music Education, Bachelor of Arts in Music, or can pursue a Music Minor while majoring in any other program offered at Washburn University. Students can also participate in the ensembles and take private lessons as non-majors. For more information on bass study at Washburn University or to arrange a trial lesson with Mr. Lewis, feel free to contact me at gordon.lewis@washburn.edu

Bassist Gordon R. Lewis has served as Instructor of Double Bass at Washburn University since 2011. Originally from Evanston, IL, Lewis began his musical studies at the age of six as a cellist. Switching to the bass in high school, Lewis quickly became immersed in a wide variety of music in the fertile music scene in Chicago, and later, Boston.

Lewis is an accomplished performer and teacher of both classical and jazz bass. As an orchestral bassist, Lewis has served as Principal Bass with the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra and as Assistant Principal Bass with the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra. He currently serves as Principal Bass in the Topeka Ballet Orchestra, and performs with the Topeka Symphony. As a jazz bassist, Lewis has performed at many of the top jazz clubs around the country, including Riles Jazz club in Boston, the Green Mill in Chicago, and the Blue Room in Kansas City.

**Education:**

**Master of Music**
DePaul University

**Bachelor of Music**
New England Conservatory of Music

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Gordon R. Lewis
Instructor of Double Bass