

## **Justin Anderson**

### **Musician Profile: Justin Anderson**

**City of Residence:** Racine

**Instrument:** String Bass

**How long have you been with Concord?** On and off since 2003 or 2004

**What is your earliest musical memory?** Listening to my father play piano to the radio or LPs.



**What got you interested in music, and what was your involvement growing up?** My parents thought music was very important in becoming a well-rounded person. Early on they started me on the path. My first exposure to music was Suzuki violin in kindergarten, along with my older sister Heather. She stuck with it and then switched to viola. I do not recall how long I played violin, but it was very short lived. A few years later, I took piano lessons from a neighbor. This was also short lived, but got me exposed to different styles of music and recitals. In 4th grade I joined orchestra and started on the string bass. From there I played in Music For Youth (MFY), which is now Music Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO). I also played trombone in 5th and 6th grade. String bass followed me through high school and into college. I also played quite a bit of electric bass in jazz bands, etc.

**Why do you perform with Concord?** I love playing music, all styles. I made the decision to pursue other avenues of interest than music as a career choice. Concord is a way for me to still be involved in music and connect with other musicians.

**What has been the high point of your involvement with Concord?** The high point for me so far has been my first year or two with Concord. I had just started playing string bass again and was rehearsing with Ralph Lane's group when I met [CCO music director] Jamin Hoffman. He asked me to play in Concord. This was huge for me as it was the first time in years that I was involved in any type of music. I also was asked to play in a few small ensembles with other Concord members at the time.

**What do you do for a living?** I am a senior project engineer with a contract engineering and manufacturing firm. My degree is in computer engineering with minors in computer science and mathematics. My position is both technical and management, but also with a good dose of customer interaction.

**Tell us about your family.** We have a very musical household. Young Marcus is an avid trombone player. Tammy is a seasoned musician with a music performance degree on flute. Of the three of us, she is definitely the strongest musician. We regularly attend community music events such as the Racine Symphony Orchestra (RSO) concerts, performances at the Pabst, Riverside, etc. Our

favorites to-date have been Esperanza Spalding, Lake Street Dive, and the Tedeschi Trucks Band. Tammy would also vote for Celtic Woman.

**What are your hobbies besides practicing and playing?** I like snowboarding, motorcycles, Jeeps, and spending time outdoors.

**What is your favorite recording?** This is a surprisingly tough question. My musical tastes are very diverse. The most influential recording I own is [Jaco Pastorius](#), solo debut from 1976. I had never before heard electric bass have such a voice and presence. This opened my eyes to more musical ideas and understanding.

**Who is your favorite composer?** Sergei Prokofiev

**What is something most people don't know about you?** I am a United States Marine.

**What is your advice for kids who are interested in music?** Listen to skilled musicians of your instrument, with the goal of realizing what can be accomplished. Music is extremely rewarding, takes dedication, but is supposed to be fun Many times young musicians and instructors forget the fun aspect. Music can be thought of as a conversation. Play with other musicians as often and as early possible.