



Paul Kurtz joined the Tampa Bay Symphony in 2001 and has been the principal double-bass since 2007. He started out playing saxophone and then got interested in the electric bass. During his first year of college at Furman University he borrowed a double bass and auditioned for the orchestra and was invited to play. He ended up earning a music scholarship and has been involved in orchestral and chamber playing ever since. One of his favorite memories with Tampa Bay Symphony was during the final performance of conductor Dr. Jack Heller's 27 year career in the spring of 2011 at the Straz Center. Dr. Heller programmed

Mahler Symphony No. 1 (Titan) and Paul got to play the bass solo at the beginning of the third movement with the Frère Jacques theme. His oldest son was sitting in the balcony and yelled out "that's my daddy" several times much to the displeasure of Dr. Heller. Despite his embarrassment, he was able to confess that it was his son who committed the offense, and he and Dr. Heller had a good laugh.

Paul was born in Detroit, but grew up in Athens, Georgia. He has a couple of math degrees and taught calculus at the University of Georgia for a while, but now makes his living as a landscape architect. He claims to still not know what he wants to be when he grows up. He's a big soccer fan and you can usually find him at Rowdies games up. Paul lives in St. Petersburg with his loving wife and two sons.

Photo by Anne Parette