

Doug Walker Full Biography

Versatile left-handed bassist and jazz composer Doug Walker has been working the San Diego music scene for over two decades, having quickly become a mainstay with many of the city's celebrated artists from a wide range of genres. While accompanying the various sub-styles of jazz, soul, folk, country, and rock, his formal training merges with his stylistic faithfulness—a rare combination appreciated by fellow musicians and perceptive audiences. As a composer, he seizes the opportunity to borrow from these styles, and all available sources, cultivating an engagingly idiosyncratic concept of contemporary instrumental jazz.

Walker strives to play an integral role in every project that comes his way, whether as a leader or as a supporting artist. On stage, he plays in the moment, ready to roll with any spontaneous change of direction. In the studio, he delivers thoughtfully supportive bass lines worthy of their permanence. Recent recordings include Tim Flannery *The Restless Kind*, Berkley Hart *Crow*, Gregory Page *One Hell of a Memory*, David Borgo *Uplift* and *Relational*, Victor Baker *As The Crow Flies*, and his debut as a leader *Concurrent Lines*; a nominee for Best Jazz Album in the 2025 San Diego Music Awards.

Born and raised in El Dorado Hills, northern California, just east of Sacramento, Doug Walker's interest in music began as far back as he can remember, having been exposed to classical, early jazz and musical theater by his parents. He first studied saxophone for a few years before discovering electric bass at age fourteen. Inspired by the bass-dominated bands of Les Claypool and Flea, he instantly became serious about the craft that would soon lead to such predecessors as Larry Graham, Bootsy Collins, Paul Jackson, Rocco Prestia, and Jaco Pastorius. Walker's interest in jazz and the upright bass flourished while studying with Dr. Joe Gilman at American River College, where he sought after the sound of a deeper line of heroes like Ron Carter, Ray Brown, Paul Chambers, Scott LaFaro, and far more. Walker later transferred to San Diego State University on a full scholarship. There he performed in orchestra, jazz big band and small combos while studying privately with renowned bassists Gunnar Biggs and Bob Magnusson, ultimately earning a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies by 2007.

Doug Walker currently lives in National City, CA, with his wife and daughter. He continues to teach, compose and perform throughout southern California, where he is often recognized as one of the few left-handed upright bassists on the planet.