

Neil Anderson-Himmelspach (b. 1976) has been playing bass professionally since the age of 17. After playing in many rock bands and working as a studio musician for several years, he chose to become serious about music composition. While playing in bands and working in the studios, he received his Bachelors of Music in Composition from Pacific Lutheran University in 1999. At PLU he studied with Dr. Gregory Youtz and David P. Robbins. Neil received his masters in music composition from Central Michigan University in May 2006. At CMU he studied with Dr. David Gillingham and Dr. José Luis-Maúrtua. Additionally, in 2005 Neil studied with Ladislav Kubik in Prague, at the Czech-American Summer Music Institute. Neil is now pursuing a doctoral degree in music composition at Florida State University, where he received the Graduate Teaching Fellowship for the 2006-2007 school year. His teaching duties at FSU include freshman and sophomore theory and aural skills and a composition studio. Neil received the FSU Outstanding Teaching Assistant award for the 2007-2008 school year. At FSU he studies composition with Ladislav Kubik and Mark Wingate. Neil has also taken composition lessons with Pulitzer Prize winning composer, Ellen Taaffe Zwillich. Neil has had his music played throughout the United States and Europe. His composition for solo alto saxophone, *Vanguard*, was a featured piece at the 2006 World Saxophone Congress. In 2007 his *Symphony No. 1* was performed at the Southwest Regional College Band Directors Association conference in Kansas City. His published works include *Salvador Dreams*, a euphonium concerto with wind band accompaniment, and *Vanguard*.