

Coming from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Nicholas Smentkowski is a multifaceted double-bassist. In his time at Southeast Missouri State University he studied under Dr. Sara Edgerton and kept a well-rounded performance diet of early, modern, chamber, and jazz music. In this time he would not only study the double-bass but also the viola da gamba and teach cello and bass through the Southeast Missouri Music Academy. When studying for his masters degree with Paul Sharpe at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, he developed a firm grasp on double-bass technique and pedagogy while maintaining frequent chamber and orchestral performances. Some of these performances include a production of Leonard Bernstein's "Mass" and a chamber recital with Rice University professor of oboe Robert Atherholt. Mr. Smentkowski is currently studying under George Speed at Florida State University in pursuit of a Doctor of Music degree with a specialization in Early Music Performance. Since his time at Florida State, Mr. Smentkowski has been invited to audition for the Vienna State Opera, performed with the early music ensemble Incantare, and maintains a hearty teaching schedule of cellists and bassists of all ages.