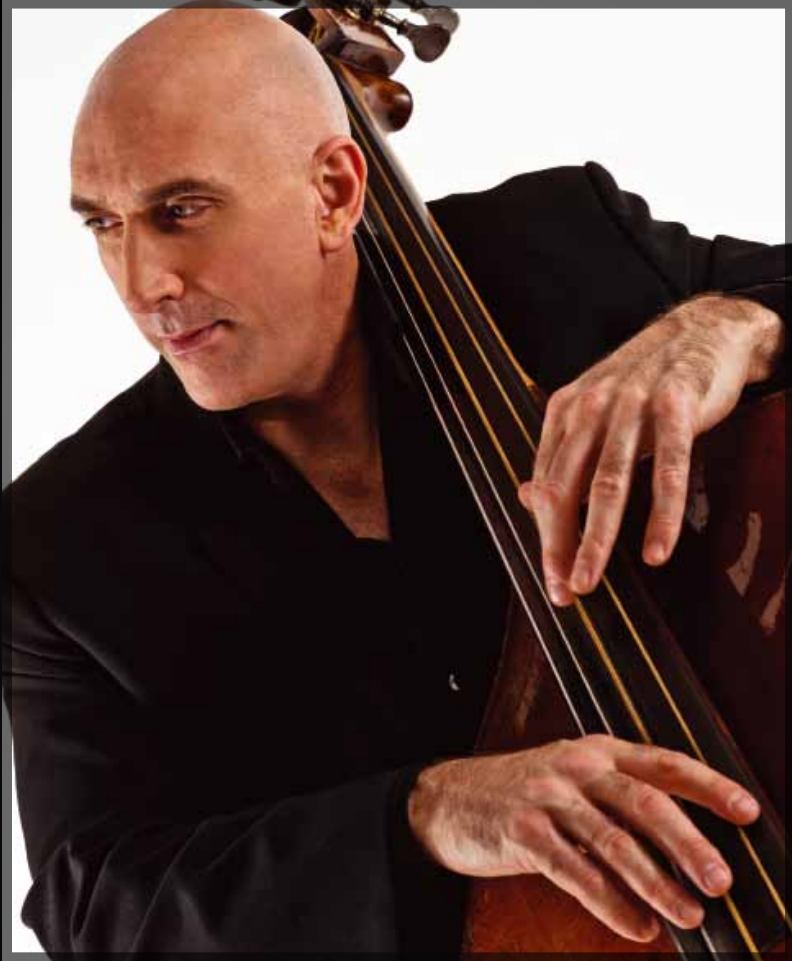


DAVE SWIFT, BASSIST WITH JOOLS HOLLAND'S RHYTHM & BLUES ORCHESTRA AND PROUD FODERA OWNER:



I can't deny the fact that I wanted to own a Fodera bass because of Anthony Jackson. I'd always loved his playing and his sound, and even though a lot of his earlier recordings were made using other basses, when he started playing a Fodera I knew I had to own one. I spoke to Joey Lauricella on the phone and wrote to him and Vinnie back in 1990. I still have the letter from them saying how they'd love to make me a bass and to let them know when I was ready to order one. For one reason or another, things just didn't work out, and it wasn't until I visited the Fodera workshop many years later in 2004 that I finally got to meet Vinnie and Joey in person and order my first Fodera bass. This was a moment I'd been waiting a long time for.

Even though the Anthony Jackson signature model had gone through many changes over the intervening years, and had constantly evolved, I didn't mind at all. I felt that the presentation model I ordered was, in

fact, better and more suitable for my needs than any of the earlier double-cutaway models. I loved the elegant single cutaway, the single pickup and the uncluttered top of the bass due to no volume or tone controls. Many people said to me, "Are you not concerned about ordering a bass with no controls whatsoever?" I said the same thing to all of them: "I play the double bass – do you see any volume or tone controls on the body of that?" I had told Vinnie that my bass didn't have to be an exact replica of Anthony's, and it differs slightly in the fact that it doesn't have titanium hardware, it has an ebony fingerboard, not rosewood, and it has regular, not mandolin-size frets. For me, the key points were always body shape, single pickup, no controls, and the extender key on the low B string that dropped it down to an A.

I wanted to pick the bass up personally from the Fodera workshop in Brooklyn, but my touring schedule with Jools made this impossible, so they shipped it over to me. Jason DeSalvo,

who runs the business side of Fodera, kindly took some photos of Anthony setting up my bass and comparing it with his own, which was a wonderful personal touch.

The bass is truly stunning and is an incredible example of design, workmanship and artistry. I can see a lot of love went into the making of my bass. With its 36-inch scale length

and large body, the Anthony Jackson Presentation model is a somewhat imposing instrument, but then Anthony and myself are not diminutive guys, so the bass feels great to me and I have no problems getting round it. This particular model won't be for everyone, but that's the beauty of Fodera – there are many more models to choose from and even they can all be customised!



Anthony Jackson with Dave's bass at Fodera HQ