

ANGELINE

Interview by Jon Moody

Angeline Saris

angelinesaris.com

facebook.com/AngelineSarisBass

Twitter: @angelinesaris

Some of the band(s) I Play With:

Narada Michael Walden Band,
Ernest Ranglin, Zepparella,
Gretchen Menn Band

Gear I Use:

Strings: GHS Boomers | Amps
and Cabs: Fender Super Bassman
Pro 300 Watt Tube Head, Fender
Super Bassman Pro 810 Neo
Cab, Fender Rumble 500, Fender
Rumble 410, Fender Rumble
115 | Basses: Fender Jazz
American Deluxe FMT, Fender P,
Fender Fretless, Sadowsky NYC
5, Marleaux Consat Soprano,
Clevinger Electric Upright

Angeline lives and breathes bass. Five minutes into meeting her for the first time, we're already talking about gear, favorite albums and bass lines that completely changed our mind. With a start in jazz, Angeline has built up her reputation as being able to handle everything that gets thrown at her, and still keep her cool.

What made you decide to play bass?

My high school music teacher approached me when I was a freshman and asked me if I had any interest in studying the bass and playing in the jazz band. At the time, I was very much in love with jazz and the magic that surrounds it...and I thought the bass was very cool. It was a total no-brainer. I studied privately for a year, played in our wind ensemble to get my chops up and then eventually joined the jazz band. It was one of the most memorable times of my life.

How/Where did you learn to play?

I studied privately all through high school while playing in the jazz band, small jazz combos, the wind ensemble and a variety of fun side projects with friends. I continued to play for fun all through college in a Latin jazz band and a few funk bands. It wasn't until a few years after college that I decided to really pursue music as a career.



Photo: Dan Kazinski



Photo by JONI TUCKER

Photo: Bill Reitzel

Who are your musical inspirations, both male and female?

James Jamerson, Larry Graham, Pino Palladino, Carol Kaye, Victor Wooten, Jaco Pastorius, Michael Manring, Herbie Hancock, Paul Jackson, Ralph Armstrong, Ron Carter, Stanley Clarke, Rhonda Smith, Esperanza Spaulding, Cindy Blackman, Bobby Vega, Rocco Prestia, TM Stevens, Mahavishnu Orchestra, Headhunters, Outkast, James Brown, Bootsy, Coltrane, Mingus, Ida Funkhouser... too many to name!

In an industry dominated by male musicians, do you find that this hinders or helps your opportunities?

I try not to look at things in terms of male/female. I'm sure it comes into play at times, but I believe it is best not to concern myself with that. I just try to be the best player I can, show up, be professional and have fun.

What is your opinion of the image of female bassists in today's music industry?

There seems to be a growing number of female bassists and I love it! It's a very cool thing to witness.

What specific challenges do you face as a female bassist? What do you feel are the advantages?

I suppose it is possible that I am not hired for certain gigs because I am a woman, or that I am specifically hired for gigs because I am a woman. There is certainly some of that happening in the business right now. For me, at the end of the day, it's about the music. The fact that I am a woman is irrelevant (unless it's an all-female band obviously, like Zepparella). My hope is that I am hired because I am

musically the right fit for a band, because of my professionalism and because of my chops.

What is your advice on how to be taken professionally in the music industry?

Show up on time.
Have a good attitude.
Prepare by learning the music.
Practice.
Be as proficient as you can be at your instrument.
Have good business sense.
Treat your band mates with respect.
Have gratitude for the people that come to see you perform.
Have fun.
Love what you do.

What do you wish someone had told you when you were first getting started?

I wish I had known the importance of establishing good practice habits from the beginning. A few years back, I took Kai Eckhardt's mentorship program where you have to practice for 108 days in a row for a minimum of a half hour a day. Once I got into the habit, I was logging 3-5 hours a day at times. It totally changed my playing, my relationship to music and my relationship to my instrument. I'm thankful I understand the power of that sort of commitment now, but I wish I had known earlier.

As a freelance musician, how has the advancement of social media affected your ability to market yourself and help network?

Social media has really enabled musicians to have more control over their career. Being able to promote yourself and your music through Facebook, Twitter, Soundcloud and

other social media portals are amazing tools to connect with a larger audience.

What is your take on endorsements?

In general, I think endorsements are a wonderful thing for both the company and for the musician. Ideally, it's a perfect symbiosis where both parties gain some sort of support from the other.

I do believe it's important as a musician to love the gear you are endorsing. I personally feel so thankful for the relationships I've made with GHS Strings, Fender, Marleaux, Sadowsky, MONO, West Coast Pedal Boards, Providence and EMG pickups. I feel extremely blessed and I love my gear.

Any advice for other females interested in getting started on the bass?

I have about 25 students I teach and my advice to each of them is the same regardless of whether they are male or female. First, figure out what your goals are. Do you want to play folk songs in your local coffee shop or tour with a fusion band? Is this a hobby or an intended profession? Obviously, you would approach those goals totally differently.

So... First, figure out your goals. Second, make a practice plan on how to reach them. Third, stick to the plan. Consistency is everything. Finally, be sure to keep it fun and don't be too hard on yourself. There are enough people that will have that covered. ;-)

What can we look forward to from you in the coming year?

The rest of this year is chalked full of some pretty sweet stuff. I am super excited to announce that I am coming out with my first

single. It's called Black Strap Molasses and it should be out by August 2014 along with a fun video.

I'll be on a national tour for the month of July with Zepparella (zepparella.com), an all-female Led Zeppelin band.

I'll also be playing the High Sierra Music Festival with Ernest Ranglin... I believe Bill Frisell is joining us as well. I am so excited and honored to be playing with these two amazing guitarists!

Finally, I'm shooting a live DVD with Narada Michael Walden Band in October.

I am so thankful for all of the wonderful opportunities music has provided for me for this coming year. Hopefully, the trend will continue throughout 2015.

Love and Low End!

Angeline

Video Links:

GHS Strings Demo Video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZERPETsJTk

Fender Demo Video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=narjgOUXksQ

Interview for Bass Players Only:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9oAFs-SFEo

Narada Michael Walden - Rising Sun Album (Fusion):

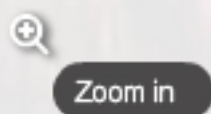
www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRKXj1ywX_M

Thunder Album, Live in Japan:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=45GnOPW9SL0

Gretchen Menn Band (live):

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODaROSJA07Y



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