Name: Jesse Kuras ‘17  
Instrument: Upright Bass, Mandolin  
Major: Music  
Minor: Computer Science  
Hometown: University Place, WA  
Residence: Off-Campus Apartment

Musical Involvements: I played with the Orchestra, as well as one concert with the Wind Ensemble. I also played with UPPC's ensemble for monthly services and with TFBC's Messiah Orchestra. During the year, I played with Tacoma Musical Playhouse for their main-stage productions. I further performed with a three piece folk band called the Split Peas, and with a nameless swing band for dances at the Westwind music retreat.

Involvements Outside Music: During the school year I work for the Old Spaghetti Factory in Downtown Tacoma, but in the Summer I have been returning to Yellowstone National Park to work at the Old Faithful Inn, now for my third season, and enjoy the incredible Montana backcountry and making music on my days off.

On why I chose Puget Sound: I chose Puget Sound after performing with the Orchestra as a hired-gun last minute for a concert. Even though I was young I was treated like a professional musician, and both staff and students were friendly, but maintained a level of focus I found admirable. In that time with the Orchestra I saw a community I could contribute to and learn from equally.

Favorite musical memory at Puget Sound (so far): So far it has been working with the Bass Instructor, Steve Schermer, on the Bottesini Concerto No. 2. Steve (and this piece) has made me think about the bass in a whole new light, and I would not trade anything for what I’ve learned this year.

What are you looking forward to? This summer I will be recording bass on an album produced by my band mate from the Split Peas, Eric, and hopefully being able to pull together a few gigs with him and other fellow musicians in the nearest town, West Yellowstone.

Favorite Class: I have most thoroughly enjoyed “The Broadway Music” (MUS 220) with Dr. Block. He is an inspiring teacher whose enthusiasm is evident in lecture and he pushes his students to think as true intellectuals, something no teacher has done for me before.