

BASS TIPS

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LEARNING THE MELODY

If you want to be a great a bass player you must learn to play the melody of the songs. Also, that will make you a great soloist. Using the melody as a reference for bass solos is one of the most basic forms of improvisation.

Why? Simple, melodies are phrases. So, if you learn to play the melody of the song, you will understand the form, the harmony, etc. Learning the melody in your bass is essential to create the perfect groove and it will help you to know what's right for the song. No more, no less, just what it is. Always remember this: "Play for the song."

Fig.1 - "Auld Lang Syne," a traditional folk song written by Robert Burns.

The image shows the bass line for the song "Auld Lang Syne" in G major, 4/4 time. It is divided into three systems, each with a staff and a fretboard diagram below it. The fretboard diagrams show fingerings for the left hand. Chords G, D7, and C are indicated above the staff.

System 1: G D7 G C

System 2: G D7 C G

System 3: D7 G C

Cont. - "Auld Lang Syne."

The image shows a musical score for the bass line of "Auld Lang Syne". It consists of two staves. The top staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in eighth notes. Above the staff, the chords G, D7, C, and G are indicated. The bottom staff is a fretboard diagram with three lines labeled T (top), A (middle), and B (bottom). The fret numbers are: 12, 9, 9, 10 for the first measure; 12, 10, 12, 9, 12 for the second measure; 10, 12, 12, 10 for the third measure; and 10 for the fourth measure.

Great Musical Quote:

"The song is ended but the melody lingers on." - Irving Berlin.