

## Bass forum notes Forum 1

Bow holders - zip up cases are most robust

Leather mutes - maker in Montreal

Ebony mutes - \$15 from Germany but have to be fit to the bridge (very good for training students to not use Tortues)

D & J Roy mutes - Massachusetts. Small wooden 2 pronged mute.

Oak rosin - designed for gut strings originally but good for steel strings too.

Yila bows - good quality carbon fibre bows.

Coda bows - more expensive and better quality.

Small basses - Corelli or Helicore strings

Bridge height low enough

Put nut at eyebrow height

Awareness of posture - lower lumbar spine (put hands on hips and feel that they can rotate their hips forward). Sit on front of stool.

Arms linked behind back and pull shoulder blades down the spine.

Saddle seat puts the hips in the right position.

Flexibility while playing - Berlin Philharmonic bass section moves a lot.

Breathing is very important.

Standing players - the weight of the bass should be in the floor, not on the body. The player should be careful not to grip the left hand on the bass.

Bass buggy \$199

Bass wheel - pull endpin out and put wheel in

Line 6 wireless transmitter can plug into any pickup

Realist sound clip goes onto bridge rather than under bridge - can be applied and removed easily

Vibrato technique- used to be considered something added on after you've learned to play the bass. If students understand when and why to use vibrato then it is much easier to teach. Should be an expressive part of muscle memory, so the earlier the better.

Relaxed arm, rotation of whole arm from elbow as one mechanism. Can be practised off the bass with 2nd finger and thumb opposite one another.

Half position - photocopy the fingertips to see if the finger spacing is correct.

Vibrato should be tempo related to the music (use it as a metronome), and then you will eliminate the stopping of vibrato between notes.

Imitate singers and try to copy the tone onto the bass.

Period instruments - early music scene is growing in Australia and America. Gut strings on modern instruments with modern bows with baroque tips without historically informed performance was the old way of doing things, but increasingly people have access to more informed performance. Can be started early rather than waiting until you are an accomplished player.

Steel strings with baroque bow can still effectively teach baroque technique.

Baroque, classical and modern bows can be interchanged according to the composer.

A lot of major institutions are now mandating that students must learn historical playing because of the employment opportunities and the breadth of musical.