

The bottom line

Bass players across a wide range not only think plenty of creative life remains in the instrument, they say the music wouldn't, and can't, exist without it.



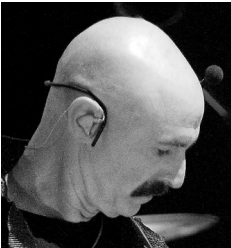
“One of the things that music is about to me is contrast, and without the bass, it's not really possible. Though it's true, you could have a sousaphone or a tuba or something.”  
**Oteil Burbridge**  
Allman Brothers, Oteil and the Peacemakers  
*The Allman Brothers Band plays at the Tweeter Center next Sunday. The Peacemakers have an album just out, “The Family Secret.”*



“Getting rid of the bass in music is slightly ridiculous, and those bands would be better if they had bass players. The bass is the thing that moves your heart, that makes you want to dance, that lay people don't pay attention to but miss when it's gone.”  
**Melanie Campbell**  
Burning Brides  
*Burning Brides arrives with the Lollapalooza '03 tour at Tweeter July 25.*



“It's kind of like when the DJs came around. When I was a kid, everyone wanted to play guitar. Nowadays everyone wants a turntable. But has that killed sales at Guitar Center? No.”  
**Les Claypool**  
Primus, Oysterhead, Les Claypool's Frog Brigade



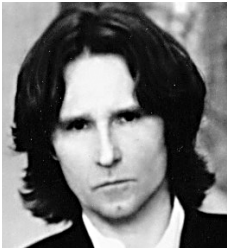
“Emerson, Lake & Palmer, Human League, Kraftwerk, Soft Cell ... bands with no guitars. Were guitarists worried? Let's tune in again a year from now and see what's happening with bands. Until then, don't forget drum 'n' bass music — lots of bass, no guitars!”  
**Tony Levin**  
Peter Gabriel



“Bass and drums are the bottom, the basis for all grooves. The pocket. That's where the music sits in. And if one of those two instruments is missing, then you're missing half the pocket.”  
**George Porter Jr.**  
The Funky Meters, Gov't Mule, P.B.S.



“[It's true that] the White Stripes continue to write hit after hit, but it's because their songs are just melody and hook and the drums are carrying them. But not really. The songs have no bottom end.”  
**Caleb Scofield**  
Cave In  
*Cave In plays the second stage at Lollapalooza '03 July 25 at Tweeter.*



“When I listen to the national anthem in Great Britain, I'm listening to the bass line. When I listen to classical music, I'm listening to the bass line. Any great song has something moving in the back, concerned with the rhythm. And that's the bass.”  
**John Waite**  
Ringo Starr's All Starr Band  
*The band plays FleetBoston Pavilion July 27. Waite's CD, “Figure in a Landscape,” comes out in August.*