

THE IMPORTANCE OF BALLADS



SCOTT'S

BASS LESSONS





THE IMPORTANCE OF BALLADS (L#103)

IF YOU FIND THIS WORKBOOK HELPFUL MAKE SURE YOU CHECK OUT THE SBL ACADEMY!

AS AN ACADEMY MEMBER YOU WILL GET A FULL WORKBOOK WITH ACTION PLAN FOR EVERY SINGLE LESSON WITHIN SCOTTSBASSLESSONS.COM, BUT, THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG!...

[CLICK HERE](#) TO CHECK OUT THE SBL ACADEMY AND FIND OUT MORE!

Start point: 00:14

EX.1 SCOTTS BASS LINE FROM THE START OF THE LESSON

10 9 7 5 7 7 6 | 5 3 2 5 3 5 2 3 | 3 5 5 7 5 7 5 3 3 | 4

CHORDS PLAYED ON THE BASS (FOR REFERENCE AS NOT DIRECTLY PART OF THIS LESSON)

Dm7

G7

Cmaj7

A7



FINGERING

4
1
3

4
2
1

4
1
2

4
2
1

17

15

17

16

15

15

16

14

15

18

17

17

ARPEGGIOS (CHORD TONES)

05:15

D MINOR 7

FINGERING

G DOMINANT 7

"Play the arpeggios all over the neck"

C MAJOR 7TH

FINGERING

A DOMINANT 7

06:55

Play through this chord progression using only root notes. Then add 5ths, 3rds and finally 7ths.

06:55

EX.2 Scott's Example

10:23 EX.3 Scott's example using shorter notes.(palm mute) **Dm⁷****G⁷**

3 5 5 3 5 3 5

3 5 3 4 5 5 3 2

Cmaj⁷**A⁷**

3 0 3 5 3 5 6 7

5 8 7 7 5 7 5

ETC

SCROLL DOWN FOR THE ACTION PLAN ↓



THE IMPORTANCE OF BALLADS (L#103)

YOUR ACTION PLAN

1. Familiarize yourself with the arpeggios/chord tones. It's important that you can clearly visualize the arpeggios of the chord progression before starting with this lesson. Play through each of the arpeggios as I demonstrate them within this lesson. Your aim should be to "see" the shapes on the fingerboard, so with this in mind make sure you're actually looking at the fretboard while playing through the arpeggios. Many students have a wandering attention span and will struggle to concentrate viewing the fingerboard for more than five minutes at a time. If this is you don't worry, I was exactly the same. Intense visual concentration like this is something that becomes easier as you do more of it. Just keep at it and you'll get it. Start with five minutes and try to work up to around fifteen minutes over the period of a month.
2. Now it's time to start playing some bass lines! As I demonstrate in the lesson I want you to start simple. Begin with roots, then start adding in the different chord tones one at a time as you begin to feel comfortable with them.

Explore the different areas of the neck whilst playing through these exercises and most of all, don't forget to use rhythm and space in your bass line! They're the most commonly underused element I see students forgetting about repeatedly and it's a really big mistake as they are so powerful when used correctly.

3. Listening and transcription will play a foundational roll in your progression as a bass player and musician. Once you've worked through this lesson you should pick at least one ballad to transcribe and analyze. The analytical part of the transcription process is where many students fall down and unfortunately is a critical part of the transcription process. By not doing so you'll be leaving a lot of valuable information behind.

Essentially the analyzing process goes like this:

- A) Understand what the chord progression is (you can find out many chord progressions by searching Google or if you're ready you can work out the progression on your bass).
- B) Transcribe and learn the bass line. You don't have to write the notation out. Transcription is used as a loose term for simply learning a bass line by ear.
- C) Cross reference the bass line with the chord progression so you can learn "why" and how the bass line works.

Before transcribing any bass lines you must understand what the chord progression is. When you transcribe and learn the bass line you'll be cross-referencing it with the chord progression so you can understand exactly why the bassist is playing the exact notes he is. This means we can take other bassists ideas and use them in our own bass lines. Not just guess work. We can actually work these ideas into our playing so they become a part of what you sound like and who you are as a musician.

Scott Devine

Copyright © 2014 Scott's Bass Lessons

Share this awesome lesson!

