

# All About the Bass

*An Interactive Presentation on the History, Function, and Pleasures of the Bass Guitar*



- The electric bass was invented as a hybrid of the upright bass and the electric guitar
- The bass serves an important role in many types of ensembles (rock, jazz, pop, funk, etc.) – it stabilizes the group, providing rhythm to dance to and a deep low end you can *feel* in your body
- Older styles of “walking bass lines” in jazz literally count the time – 1, 2, 3, 4 – like a clock, keeping the group together
- With the introduction of the electric bass, bass players were able to be more flexible, no longer having to count to 4

- While we often recognize the melodies to popular songs, many songs also have memorable bass lines – try listening to the *low* notes in your favorite songs!
- Instruments such as the tuba in marching bands can also play bass lines
- The bass is an important and exciting instrument – it’s necessary to keep the group together, while also able to play its own fun parts!

**Additional Resources:**

Walking bass line (count to 4):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUB1YouuVUE>

More flexible bass line (Jackson 5 – “I Want You Back”):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z91l\\_IPz1oc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z91l_IPz1oc)

Fender museum (popular manufacturer of electric basses and guitars - located in Corona!)

<http://fendermuseum.com/>