

# The significance of jaco pastorius

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Jaco Pastorius revolutionized the role of the Bass Guitar in music, giving it the capacity to be a lead instrument via many bass techniques such as harmonics, Bass chords, double-stopping, and by playing melodies written for other instruments.

Jaco Pastorius was a Jazz-fusion bassist who is most well known for playing with the Band Weather Report. A virtuosic Bassist from a family of Musicians, he is known for songs such as Birdland, Teen Town, and a Bass cover of the Beatles classic "Blackbird". He was inducted into the Downbeat Jazz Hall of Fame in 1988 posthumously and is the only electric bassist to have achieved this feat. He lived from 1951 -1987 and suffered from bi-polar disorder which some attribute his creativity to. Jaco revolutionized the Bass guitars role via many different aspects of his playing. The extensive use of both natural and artificial harmonics is evident in songs such as Birdland and a Portrait of Tracy. The high range of the Harmonics are a hallmarks of Jaco's style and make a lot of his runs and lines quite cantabile. Jaco and Weather Report can be attributed to bringing jazz-fusion to somewhat of a mainstream audience, with Jaco playing a major role in the attraction that was Weather Report.

Jaco was able to revolutionize the Bass by drawing upon his musical abilities as a Drummer and pianist. His ability to play lines intended for other instruments of his Jazz Bass brought some flavor and to what is often considered a boring and monotonous instrument. An inventive musician, Jaco took the frets off his Bass Guitar and this contributed to his distinctive sound, often referred to as the Jaco Growl, where he would pluck the strings close to

the bridge off his Bass. Jaco referred to frets as ??? speed bumps??? and therefore favored not using them.

Jaco utilized technology to revolutionize his Bass playing. The extensive use of the Chorus effect would give his Bass solos a rich and layered sound. He uses the techniques of vibrato and tremolo by wiggling his fingers on the note. This creates a strong sound and texture. Jaco also used Bass Chords and double stopping, seen extensively in the Bass cover of Blackbird, once again showed the versatility of the instrument and showed the world that the Bass is able to be a lead role. Jaco is heralded as one of the Best electric Bassists and also is famed for his ability to compose. His techniques and non-traditional methods of playing saw Bass take on many new roles within music, and his influence can be seen in Bassist such as Flea from the Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Victor Wooten, Marcus Miller, Les Claypool of Primus, and Stuart Zender - the Bassist for Jamiroquai, who quoted ??? With his sense of Rhythm, Melody and use of harmonics, Jaco pushed the envelope and transformed the way the electric Bass was played???. Birdland, a piece by Weather Report from their 1977 album Heavy Weather is a piece which demonstrates a number of Techniques used by Jaco.

At 0. 19 seconds of the Studio version of the piece Jaco brings in the melody with his distinct Harmonics. He then jumps and octave and continues to play the melody. At 1.

02 a faint Vibrato sound is audible from the Bass. At 1. 29 in a mid section between sections you can hear Jaco using a slide and a strong Chorus effect

coming through. At 1. 49, over a Sax solo, some quick double stopping becomes audible. The Double stopping is a sixth interval.

At 2. 37, he plays a G octave pedal point over a melodic ostinato. The song is heavily laden with Tremolo and Vibrato techniques. Jaco also used Lower mordents in his conjunct trills. The harmonic melody of the song is cantabile.

Jaco also alternates from lead soloist/ to the conventional role of a Bassist, but even when he retreats back to the rhythm section, he uses fast and scalic trills and mutes the notes.