



Take an exclusive tour of the MTD factory.



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Plus, an exclusive interview with Down and Pantera's Rex Brown.

www.bassplayer.tv

Warwick's 25th Anniversary Party



WARWICK, MAKER OF BEAUTIFUL BASSES, cool amps, and other distinctively stylish bass bric-a-brac recently celebrated its 25th anniversary at its new factory in Markneukirchen, Germany, and I got to go. I won't reveal my embarrassing travel details (being lost in a pitch-black forest that reminded me of every WWII movie I've seen), because the fascinating factory tour and amazing party helped me forget my fish-out-of-water woes. Warwick president Hans Peter Wilfer was an exception-

ally generous host, guiding me through the stunning new high-tech factory and putting on a party to rival any that may have once taken place at our hotel (it used to be a Communist Party faithful retreat). Many beautiful instruments were on display, and Warwick-wielding musical guests from Jonas Hellborg to Berlin's best disco cover band ensured entertainment from cocktail hour to witching hour, proudly displaying the flexibility of Warwick's diverse product line. —JONATHAN HERRERA

INTRODUCE YOURSELF



Name Martin Letendre
Hometown Montreal, Quebec
Years experience 13

Gigs Soul Vaccination (Tower Of Power tribute band), Sortie 210 (big band), Godemichet (pop artist)

Gear MTD Kingston Heir 5-string (with Nordstrand pickups and Aguilar preamp), Kinal MK5-B 5-string, fretless MTD Kingston Artist 5-string,

Lakland Duck Dunn, Ashdown ABM 500 RC EVO II head, Aguilar GS 212 2x12 and DB 112 1x12 cabs, Aguilar DB 900 DI, Bayou Audio cables, MTD, DR, and D'Addario strings.

Day job Private bass teacher (at a specialized music-program high school)

Why I started playing My high school music teacher noticed I showed a basic talent and recommended I take private lessons. I did and immediately devoted all of my time to learning proper technique instead of learning songs. I learned to read music from the beginning, and that kept me working.

Why I play today I play to support the music and musicians I'm playing with. I get satisfaction from making the band feel and sound great—as well as supporting the soloist. I also love being able to move a song in a new direction by changing one note or a single rhythm. It's something only bass can accomplish.

Light bulb moment Playing in my first original band. For my whole life as a player I had been playing other musician's lines, and for the first time I was asked to be me. It was difficult, but it was very motivating and helped me develop my style as a bassist and musician.

Hear my music at www.martinletendre.com

Talk to me at martin@martinletendre.com or on talkbass.com (username: 1kinal)



Name Jonny C.
Hometown Boston, Massachusetts
Years experience 10

Gig Rogue Heroes

Gear Ibanez Soundgear, Fender Jazz Bass, Mesa head and cabs

Day job Brazilian jiu-jitsu instructor

Why I started playing I played guitar, and a friend of mine bought a bass so we could play

together. He left the bass at my house and never got it back.

Why I play today Getting a crowd going. It's a rush I live for.

Light bulb moment Moments, actually. The first occurred when our guitarist broke two strings during a sold-out show and had no backup guitar. As he restrung backstage, the drummer and I went at it, drum-and-bass style. Before long, girls were pushing their way to the stage so they could shake their bootys. That's when I realized bass was a seriously sexy instrument. My second moment came after our first UK tour. My father killed himself the day after I arrived home. I resented myself for going on tour after he had checked himself into a mental ward, even though he told me, "You have to go on tour." I went, and never saw him again. I quit my band, blaming myself for my father's death. Then one day, my two-year-old niece woke me from a nap by shaking the bass that my father had bought me while saying, "Jonny bass. Jonny bass." I picked my bass up and started playing for her. She started dancing. I saw joy in her eyes and thought to myself, What the hell was I thinking quitting the band? This is who I am. Bass is what I do.

Hear my music at myspace.com/rogueheroes



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