



Great Dane

Local Bass virtuoso player Dane Alderson has had a long association with Concept Music and recently he spoke with Shane MacDonald about some his latest projects. Dane tours extensively throughout Australia well as internationally & has toured with James Morrison in Europe. He is also highly in demand locally & you can catch him at some of his regular gigs including The Ellington & the Llama Bar.

Q: *Hope life has not been too hectic for you lately after a Malaysian tour and been stranded on the Cocos Islands for a week. How's life without drummer Andy Fisenden these days after his departure to London?*

A: It has definitely been different since Andy's departure. I mean, we've been gigging together non-stop for the past 8 years and have been involved in many different musical projects both nationally & internationally. However, his departure has given me the opportunity to work with even more of the country's most respected drummers

Q: *Lately I've seen you playing a 4 string, as opposed to the 6 string you played for quite some time. It seems to have opened up more aspects to your playing, particularly soloing, which is still really musical, but with an even stronger groove.*

A: The first bass I owned was a beat up old 4 string called a Fame that my parents bought me for Christmas one year. I only used it for about 8 months before I upgraded to a 5 string & then eventually to the 6. I suppose I always felt kind of guilty that I didn't properly develop my technique on the 4 string before making the transition to the

other basses. Playing 5 and 6 string basses is great, but it forces you to change your technique slightly in both hands to assist with string muting. For example, when you're playing on the high C on a 6 string, you have 5 other strings on the instrument to keep quiet, which can sometimes be a pain!

One of the other reasons for my move back to the 4 string is that I started doing more R&B, Rock and Pop gigs around town, which rely more heavily on groove as opposed to improvising.

Q: *I've noticed you have been getting DR strings off us lately after Tony [Concept Bass Guru] gave you the tip about them?*

A: I started using DR strings about 6 months ago & I really liked the their touch and tone from the get-go. I also started experimenting with lighter gauge strings, which give a sharper, brighter tone that is great for soloing. Tony then told me about the DR Sunbeam series which, which apart from having an awesome sound, have a much smoother touch with very little friction beneath the fingers. Usually it takes some time for a new set of strings to feel comfortable, but the Sunbeams feel great as soon as you put them on. I am using DR Sunbeams 40 - 100.

Q: *Your technique and sound is just awesome. The right hand plucking you do, is that inspired by anyone like Matt Garrison, or is it something you just took off and ran with yourself?*

A: A friend of mine introduced me to Matt Garrison when I was studying at WAAPA back in 2002 and his playing completely blew me away. His sound, technique, phrasing & song writing is unbelievable & I will always regard him as one of my biggest influences. I was particularly amazed at his right hand technique, which involves plucking the strings with his thumb and first three fingers. Many of the bands I work with play tunes at ridiculous tempos & I found that applying the 4 finger technique (as opposed to just using 2 fingers) eased the strain & tension in my right hand. You can play 16th notes for much longer without getting tired and the notes & rhythms are much more consistent. Another idea I got from Garrison (and another one of my

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- ★ Chunk Systems Bass Effects (Tasty)
- ★ Boss TU 1000 Stage Tuner



More on page 3...

All of you who have been coming in regularly over the past few months will know how busy Concept has been lately so it seems, despite all the gloom & doom, the urge to make music has certainly not waned at all! In fact I am told in previous recessions musical instrument sales have increased as people treat themselves to more entertainment at home... so perhaps that is going to prove to be true in this one as well?!

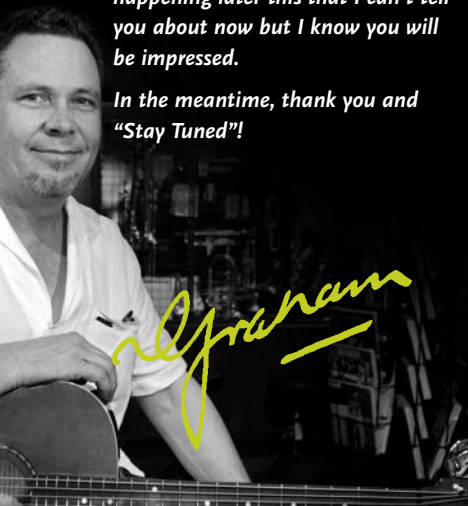
There is loads going on here at Concept & we have heaps of exciting new "stuff" for you look at... I've said it before but I'll say it again - the quality & value of instruments has never been so good & some of the deals being offered by our suppliers who are keen to stimulate the market are awesome (check out our "2 for 1" deal on DR Bass String for instance!).

Also, if you were still thinking of getting yourself a new Maton or acoustic guitar soon, then remember if you get it NOW (i.e. before June 26th!) you will to attend a FREE lesson with Tommy Emmanuel! This an amazing offer so thank you to Tommy and to Maton for working with us to make it happen... in fact Tommy is flying in a day early especially for this fantastic promotion! Also, if you're lucky, you might even still be able to get last minute ticket for his performance at the Perth Concert Hall of Monday 29th June.

Perhaps I'll close this "rave" with a clichéd "thankyou" to all of you who have come in over the past 2 months & invested your "Rudd Money" on a new guitar or amplifier or piano! Many of you have told us this is what you have done with your \$900 and dare I state the obvious by saying I can't think of a better use for it than a new musical instrument!

Stay tuned for our next Newsletter... we've got some great things happening later this that I can't tell you about now but I know you will be impressed.

In the meantime, thank you and "Stay Tuned"!



What's New?



MARTIN JOHN MAYER OMJM

The OMJM John Mayer Special Edition features a top of Engelmann spruce and back and sides of East Indian rosewood for warm, rich tone. Scalloped "Hybrid" bracing enhances the full timbre of this tonewood combination. Body appointments are also similar, with a Style 45 rosette featuring a centre ring of colourful paua shell, bold herringbone around the top, black/white back purfling around the back, grained ivoroid binding throughout, an HD Style zigzag back strip and a traditional OM teardrop polished and bevelled toroise-color pickguard.

The Spanish cedar neck with diamond volute is carved with playing comfort in mind, combining 1-11/16" width and low profile shape for easy fretting. The East Indian rosewood headplate sports Martin's Old Style decal in silver rather than the familiar gold (another nod to the OM-28JM John Mayer Signature Edition) and nickel Gotoh opengeared tuners with butterbean knobs. The black African ebony fingerboard highlights 1/8" mother of pearl position markers at the 5th, 7th (two), 9th, 15th and 17th frets, a unique 12th fret position marker of two dots flanking a slotted square, and John Mayer's signature inlaid in mother of pearl between the 19th and 20th frets. RR \$7995



CHUNK SYSTEMS BASS PEDALS

Somebody help me! These bad boys are built in Australia from high quality parts, close tolerance components and plenty of funk. Whether you are looking for crusty and gritty, fat and funky, or screaming mutant bloodsucker sound from another planet, then come in and play these pedals and see what Bootsy Collins is so excited about.



RRP? Don't pay full price, come and see us for a great deal

- OCTAVIUS SQUEEZER Analogue Bass Synth RR \$629
- AGENT 00 FUNK MARK II Envelope Filter RR \$339
- BROWN DOG Gated Bass Fuzz RR \$339

HARTKE HYDRIVE HX 410 1000 WATT CAB

HyDrive transducers represent a revolutionary improvement in bass speaker technology and a major leap forward, fusing paper and aluminium in a roadworthy speaker design that is more robust and efficient than anything available. With Hartke's HyDrive series, you get the best of both worlds: the warm tone of traditional paper cones and the clear, punchy attack of aluminium. The patented Technology produces a speaker that uses an outside paper cone to push a warm, deep low frequency and an inner aluminium cone that produces mids and highs that cut, yet still remain sweet.

And the power to weight ratio is awesome... weighing 40% less than traditional speakers and delivers 250 watts it has the highest power-to-weight ratio of any bass speaker available. And the innovation runs even deeper. Because of its cast aluminium frame and neodymium magnets, HyDrive speakers operate cooler and deliver more reliable power handling at peak performance. RR \$1695



MARK BASS NY 604

Named after the big city where bassists often take the subway or a taxi to gigs! This handsome little cube is like a mini 4x10, a great compact solution for bassists on the go, and the perfect extension cabinet for the Minimark combo. Packing 4 x 6inch speakers and a one inch compression driver with a custom horn, you will be blown away by how much air this little baby can move. At 8ohms and only 15 kg, save your back and still get a big sound. Also see our Limited Edition Signature Series Little Mark Head at the Bass Place, Concept Music. RR \$2195

Little Mark Signature Head RR \$1695



YAMAHA MM 8

Awesome Power, Total Control
Power and control. Two elements that can make all the difference in your music, whether you compose, create or perform. The MM Music Synthesizer delivers all that power and more. Drawing on the same sounds of the popular pro-level MOTIF series instruments, the MM has a wide variety of dynamic, realistic and just plain powerful Voices to help you create amazing music. The MM also gives you total control over your sound, with real-time tweakable knobs, and features special Patterns that provide full backing - drums, bass and chords - for your live performance and song creation.

RR \$1799



★ ★ ★

...Dane Alderson from page 1

heroes, Gary Willis) is the use of a 'ramp' which is a piece of wood that is placed between the pickups to bridge out the gap so your fingers don't get caught underneath the strings. The ramp gives you many more options as far as right hand plucking goes & it especially compliments the 4 finger technique.

Q: *Apart from great groove and feel, your soloing is so interesting. You have obviously studied jazz, but did you school yourself in bebop?*

A: A friend of mine introduced me to Jaco Pastorius when I was about 15 and, like so many other electric bassists around the world, my knowledge of what the electric bass was capable of completely changed. My first real introduction to jazz (apart from my father's record collection) was from listening to Jaco & his music. It was then (especially when I was at WAAPA) when I started to check out some of the jazz musicians that influenced Jaco, such as Charlie Parker, John Coltrane & Miles Davis (to name a few). I transcribed lots of bass solos from bass players who had already schooled themselves in jazz such as Tom Kennedy, Jaco, Jeff Andrews &



Richard Bona, but it was really exciting when I started transcribing other instruments & solos from jazz greats such as Oscar Peterson, Stan Getz, Wynton Kelly & Mike Stern. It was exciting because I could then figure out my own fingerings & my own musical approach to playing their lines, as opposed to copying the style of a bass player who had already figured out his own approach.

Q: *How about some advice to aspiring bassist's, young and old? (eg the importance of time, practising with metronome, playing in the pocket with the drummer)*

A: I always highly stress to my students the importance of practicing with a metronome. I would much rather listen to a musician who is playing all the "wrong" notes with great time & rhythm than one playing the "right" notes with an average feel & bad time. I've always felt that if you have good time you can make anything sound good. My Dad is a drummer & he taught me the drums from a very young age.

"I got that note from Bing Cosby, and boy was he glad to get rid of it" Jimmy Durante after playing a real clanger.

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techtips

Guitar and Bass String Management

Keep a clean rag or cloth in your guitar case (other than your polish cloth), and use it to wipe your strings down after every set, practise, or jam. This can increase your string life up to 30% and keep them in better shape and tune.

Once your strings start to go, apart from feeling grotty, you will notice the tuning going downhill, and even fret buzz that you might think is the guitars problem, when a lot of the time in can be the result of a bad string. Even the polymer coated Elixirs will last longer if they get a wipe down now and then. Also, have nice clean hands if possible before picking your beloved up.



Apology!!

Well... of sorts! We have never been busier restringing & setting up guitars for customers so sometimes have trouble getting them all ready within our own goal of 24 hours. Therefore we want to let you know that we always give priority service to customers with guitars bought guitars from Concept Music. We have been booking in an increasing number guitars that have been bought "on line" overseas or elsewhere and some them might look like guitars but are seriously dodgy - sorry, but there's no other word for them... even that is being polite! Many we see are simply unplayable & unrepairable & for which no parts can be sourced so please, as they used to say in the old Hill St Blues TV Series... "People... be careful out there".



DR STRINGS TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE OFFER

If you haven't checked out these strings yet, then you had better. There is a reason some of Perth's top pro guitarists and bass players swear by them, and it's no fluke that the DR's were voted best bass strings in the 2008 American Bass Player Magazines Readers Choice Award. They are handmade by players who strive for tone perfection, and boy do we have an offer for you. Cut along the scissor mark and present this article to Concept Staff when you buy a set of DR bass strings, and you will get another set free. No tricks, and no this is not a misprint, but only until June 30, 2009.



What's Hot



CORE X2 INSTRUMENT CABLE

Featuring a new modern look and feel, combined with wide-band accurate sound, and using the finest audiophile grade materials and construction techniques, coreX2 cables are perfectly suited for professional studio recording, home recording, home audio, or live performance.

These are not the usual generic cables disguised in fancy jackets or packaging. CoreX2 cables provide a noticeable improvement in sound quality, with flat and extended frequency response. Previously, this level of performance was only available in the most expensive and exotic cables that few could justify acquiring.

CoreX2 redefines price/performance ratios and delivers the best possible sound fidelity at real world prices. If you care about tone and sound quality, you need these cables.

- 12 FT GUITAR CABLE \$59.95
- 20FT GUITAR CABLE \$86.95
- 20 FT BASS CABLE \$135.95
- ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENT CABLE \$99.95

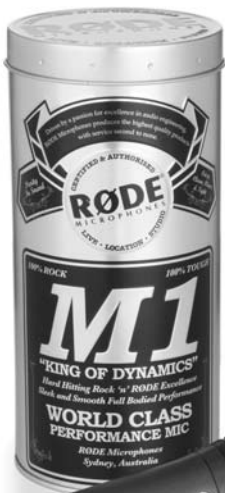
RØDE M1 Live Performance Dynamic Microphone - Made in Australia!

100% Rock 'n' Roll in a can!

With a rock solid die-cast body and sturdy dynamic capsule the RØDE M1 can take all the abuse you or your Roadie can throw at it, without showing signs of age or neglect.

You can rely on the M1 to offer reliable high quality performance, day after day, gig after gig.

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- ★ High output dynamic capsule
 - ★ Gold plated XLR connectors
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 - ★ Feedback rejecting pick-up pattern
 - ★ Heavy duty metal body
 - ★ Low handling noise
 - ★ Designed and manufactured in Australia
 - ★ Lifetime Warranty



RR \$199

This Month's "Top 5" titles from our new and expanded DVD display.

Prices starting from just \$9.95!

1	John Scofield Jazz Funk Guitar	\$49.95
2	Rick Latham Advanced Funk for Drums	\$74.95
3	Basic Guitar Set Up	\$29.95
4	Danny Gatton 2 Strictly Rhythm	\$52.95
5	Beginning Funk Bass	\$29.95

LOCAL SCENE



NEW TO THE CREW

We give a warm Concept Music welcome to our newest team member David Jager, who has joined us full time. Dave's bag is old school rock baby, and he likes the tunes of Iron Maiden, Van Halen, Led Zep, Jimi Hendrix, The Who, David Gilmour and The Scorpions.

Dave's gear consists of a Fender Strat, Tokai Les Paul, Fender Band Master VM head, Marshall Quad with Greenbacks, and a Laney AOR50. Say gidday when you see him.

GIG NEWS

Those hardy preachers of funk, **THE FUNK CLUB HOUSE BAND** are heading back to the Leederville Hotel on Friday June 5 after two a two year absence.

KARNIVOO will be at Metro Fremantle on July 1 for the Sound Awake Tour.

END OF FASHION hit the road with Evermore in July and hit WA from the 4th to "the 7th covering Margaret River, Bunbury, Freo and Perth.

And don't forget **TOMMY EMMANUEL** at the Perth Concert Hall on June 29th...

"In California they don't throw their garbage away... they make it into TV Shows!"
Woody Allen



LOCAL CD RELEASES

- ★ Karnivool "Wide Awake"
- ★ Eskimo Joe "Inshalla" May 29th
- ★ Abbe May And The Rocking Pnuemonia "Hawaiian Disease" June 5th
- ★ Day Of The Dead

THE ELLINGTON JAZZ CLUB

After 2 years of meticulous planning, The Ellington Jazz Club opened its doors to the public on the 5th of March 2009. The Ellington offers the opportunity to hear live international, national and talented local artists in the chic, sophisticated setting of the tastefully restored heritage-listed building at 191 Beaufort Street Perth. Centrally located near the corner of Newcastle St and adjacent to Weld Square, Upstairs will be sound tracked with a diverse and unique playlist of music encompassing the world of jazz and its divergent streams and influences from blues to bossa nova, Afrobeat to funk. Definitely worth checking out

www.conceptmusic.com.au