

ment. After awhile, I realized that this kind of instrument needed a special speaker cabinet designed to reproduce this bass clearly across its extreme range. I worked with Basson Sound to create a cabinet that would reproduce both C#0 and the Eb6 notes clearly when played at the same time. With this instrument, I am able to create "quadruple and quintuple stops" which have a massive and powerful sound. Of course, I can also play it like a two-handed touch-style instrument.

*Do you find any ergonomic or muscular concerns?*

Each of my basses was custom-made. My concept for the 7-string bass uses a 13mm string spacing and Tobias contoured the neck to fit my hand. With the 12-string, Adler was able to build a neck that is less than 3/4" thick. It also has a 13mm string spacing (the most comfortable for my hands), and was designed to balance on my thigh. It practically plays itself. I feel that these bass guitars, which were designed with comfort and ease of playability in mind, combined with proper playing techniques, ameliorate any ergonomic or muscular problems I might have had. However, you won't see me standing while playing these basses!

*What's coming up for you and will it be multi-string again (or do you ever play a regular 4-string bass)?*

I still play my 4-string bass and love it. After 41 years of playing, I don't think I'll ever stop playing a 4-string. Regarding what's coming up...it took me about two years to work with a wire manufacturer to come up with a plain steel string that would tune up to G4 and Ab4 at the 32-inch bass guitar scale. Now that I have this string, which enables me to have a 12-string (single course) bass, I can't imagine extending past eight octaves. A 13-string hasn't been ruled out, though. By the way, this same high string also allows me to have a triple octave string set on a 4x3 12-string bass. While the gauge of this string is .003 (about as thin as a human hair), it is amazingly strong and flexible with an extremely high tensile strength.

Now that I have viable strings for the Adler 12-string bass, which is tuned C0-G4 and has 36 frets, I am spending a lot of time playing music written for piano. This is for solo bass guitar applications. In the 1980's, I had to rearrange the Bach Two-Part Inventions in order to play them on the 4-1/2 octave range of my 7-string bass. With the Adler 12-string, I can now play the Bach Two-Part Inventions and other piano pieces as a pianist does, exactly where they are written, and for the first time can play melodic patterns that span 7 octaves. This allows me, a bass guitarist, to be all the musician I can be and be able to perform solo at engagements.