

# **Michael Dimin**

## **Solo Bassist, Author, Educator**

*“Above it all he is a supreme musician, with a singular, unique voice on his instrument.” – Max Valentino [www.talkbass.com](http://www.talkbass.com)*

The idea of a solo bassist still makes people laugh. “Solo what!” they chuckle. “Hey Harriet, you gotta here this one!” Michael Dimin has transcended the role of bassist. His solo bass performances, as well as his work as a composer, author, educator and recording artist have written a new definition of the word bassist.

*“Bassist extraordinaire Michael Dimin may not be a household name, save for us TB readers who regularly check into to his forum, but he may well be on his way to joining Stanley, Jaco, Marcus, Victor et al as such. Quick to dismiss his talents as nothing special, his amazing playing, sensitivity, compositional skills, and stunning chordal work belie his sincere modesty. Few players possess his skills and harmonic knowledge, as his solo chordal bass renditions of tunes such as “Autumn Leaves”, “The Shadow Of Your Smile” and “Footprints” attest to. Above it all he is a supreme musician, with a singular unique voice on his instrument.” – Max Valentino, [www.talkbass.com](http://www.talkbass.com) (The complete interview is available at [www.talkbass.com](http://www.talkbass.com))*

*“If you ever get a chance to see Michael Dimin play, do it. He does some amazing stuff.” – Michael Manring, internationally acclaimed bassist*

*“DAMN! - I admire (envy?) your chordal works, I don't think that the younger players appreciate or realize the effort involved in arranging something like that, its great that you make it available for them, and your loop orchestration is one of the most musical ones I've heard.” – Scott Hubble*

*“Your playing continues to amaze everyone” - David Winstead*

Leaving the role of bassist behind, it is Michael Dimin's music has come to the forefront. Michael Dimin has just released his first CD, as a leader, “*Big Droppins*”. The CD is a culmination of 20 years in the development of techniques and artistry that have rewritten the definition of “bassist”. Included on the recording are some of Michael's “stunning” solo arrangements of jazz standards, beautiful bass and percussion duets and ensemble pieces featuring the amazing work of world renown soprano saxophonist Paul McCandless (Oregon, Bela Fleck and the Flecktones and countless more).

*“...it's beautifully paced, and really well-recorded. I greatly dig the group work, and the solo pieces are stunning, every chord-voice rings clearly.” - Joe Gallant, The Illuminati Orchestra*

*“Big Droppins is an extraordinary collection of both solo exhibitions and eclectic ensemble pieces. It is comprised of five original compositions from Dimin and five skillfully crafted, orchestrated arrangements of classic jazz standards. With his fretted and fretless basses, his Boomerang Phrase Sampler, and his sophisticated knowledge of harmony, Dimin has redefined the art of looping and solo electric bass performance. Assisted by the brilliant work of world renowned soprano saxophonist Paul McCandless on two tracks and accompanied by several members of his talented “musical family”, Dimin demonstrates his technical proficiency in solo, duo, trio, and quartet settings. Lyrical fretless soloing, multi-layered textures, impeccable intonation, and*

*rich tone can be found throughout. ...Bottom Line: With his innovative chordal approach to solo electric bass performance and the release of his first recording as a leader, Big Droppins, Michael Dimin has elevated the standards in the field of bass artistry. Look out!” – Cliff Engel, [www.bassically.net](http://www.bassically.net)*

*“Big Droppins” fills the void left by the loss of Jaco Pastorius” - Pat Humphries. Grand Prize winner of the prestigious John Lennon Songwriting Contest*

*Wow... Very hip! - Jeff Sabin, Jazz Times Magazine*

*“Bass-master Michael Dimin has finally released his debut CD as a band leader, and “Big Droppins” was worth the wait. Whether spotlighting his own jazz compositions like the opening “The Hunter” or plumbing the catalogs of such greats as Jaco Pastorius (“Three Views of a Secret”), Wayne Shorter (“Footprints”) and Horace Silver (“Song For My Father”), Dimin is in full command of an instrument that gets the spotlight all too rarely.*

*He’s accompanied by a stellar group of musicians, including soprano saxman Paul McCandless, guitarist Tim Reyes, drummer Tristan Luke, pianist Konstantine Tsykun and percussionist Brian Melick, but the CD is unquestionably Dimin’s showcase. Especially impressive is his unique chordal technique on standards like “Autumn Leaves” and “The Shadow of Your Smile.” - Greg Haymes, Albany Times Union, Preview Section, June 6, 2002*

*First off, I find your music incredibly inspiring. Your rendition of "Autumn Leaves" is an amazingly beautiful piece which gives me many joys. Also, your looping work has changed the way I see the instrument! Thank you for doing what you do! - Brian Ostro, London, UK*

As an author and educator, Michael Dimin has reached countless others with his music and vision. Mike is a clinician for **MTD Basses, Euphonic Audio** and **Thomastik-Infeld**. Mike’s Master Classes have been presented at renowned institutions such as the **Bass Collective, BassQauke, NAMM** and the **Detroit Bass Fest**. Mike also teaches at the **National Summer Guitar Workshop**. Mike is an “Ask The Pro” at [www.talkbass.com](http://www.talkbass.com), lesson columnist and advisory board member at **The International Institute of Bass** at [www.bassically.net](http://www.bassically.net) and a lesson columnist for **Bass Frontiers Magazine**. Mike’s work was featured in **Basics Magazine** (issue #30 - John Paul Jones) and **Bass Player Magazine** (March 2001, April 2003 and December 2003).

*“...his solo work is VERY musical, and his book ‘The Chordal Approach’ is one of the best resources I’ve ever seen for anyone investigating solo bass” – Steve Lawson, Guitarist Magazine (UK)*

*“My name is Teppei, I go to the bass collective to figure out my music. I took your master class at the collective, August, it was so good. I realized the importance of melody and harmonies and I thought I needed to study chordal approach (Yep! I bought your book and practice every day!!!).” – Teppei, Bass Student, The Bass Collective, NYC*

*“I just wanted to thank you again for all the extremely useful knowledge you gave me at NGW. My band was very surprised on how much I progressed in my soloing and playing in general. My teacher was also very impressed with my progression and he has your book. Once again, thank you.” - Jared Ian Kalish, student, National Summer Guitar Workshop*

*“I really enjoyed being your student for a week! You are one of the best teachers I’ve ever known,*

*and I sincerely mean that. Your enthusiasm was contagious! It was a very inspiring week! I think my wife is starting to get tired of hearing about Mike Dimin, but she loves your CD, as do I" -*

**John O'Connor, student, National Summer Guitar Workshop**

Perhaps Michael Dimin's vision and commitment to the music can be summed up by Dave Tomasi:

*"Thanks to Mike for showing a bass player how to be a musician."* – **Dave Tomasi**

## ***The Chordal Approach***

"The Chordal Approach" is the culmination of over 20 years of work. From my first attempt at a chord-melody solo of Misty in 1979 to my cutting edge arrangement of Jaco's Three Views of a Secret, I have been able to develop a chordal technique that is within reach of all players. I have, recently, expanded the technique through the use of the Boomerang Phrase Sampler.

*"I finally had a chance to sit down and go through "The Chordal Approach." Great stuff! I especially like how you explain the theories of reharmonization and voice leading. It makes the book a great educational resource for all bassists and I admire the work you've put in."* - **Michael Manring**

*"Moving step by step through the theory, technique, and application of bass chords, Dimin espouses chordal study as a performance tool and as a way to improve your overall musicianship."* - **Bass Player Magazine, March 2001, From The Bookshelf (p.86)**

*"The Chordal Approach" is an excellent study and source of information for developing chordal playing on four string bass. Michael has put together a concise guide and method that will start you on your way to exploring the useful chordal possibilities that are available on your instrument.*

*I recommend this book to bassists who want to get a better understanding of harmony as well as developing their comping technique".* - **Mark Egan**

*"Bottom Line: This the most informative book covering the topic of chordal techniques on the electric bass that I've seen hit the market. So if you are looking to expand your musical horizons in becoming not just a better bassist but a better musician, gain a better understanding of the way a melody and harmony function in a song, further develop a more well trained ear, or just wanting to take your level of musicianship to the next level, then I highly recommend that you look to The Chordal Approach to help you revolutionize your playing."* - **Cliff Engel, www.basically.net**

*"his solo work is VERY musical, and his book 'The Chordal Approach' is one of the best resources I've ever seen for anyone investigating solo bass, and will be featured in an upcoming article in Guitarist magazine about bass books."* - **Steve Lawson**

*"After getting mucho adviseo from Dimin, I checked out his site and bought his Chordal Approach book.. It's GREAT, and I'm learning a lot from it. I whole heartedly recommend it."* - **Jordan Marr**

*"a serious treatment of chordal playing."* - **Basslessons.com**

*"It is very informative and has opened new horizons for me. This book should be a part of every electric bass player's library."* - **Joseph Castellano**

*“I think you have a real knack for educating — I say that as a guy who owns a whole SHELF of music theory and method books, but still can’t solo worth s####! Your book did more to help me understand substitutions (and therefore harmony) than anything else I’ve read so far.” - Andrew McRory*

## **Michael Dimin**

# **Lessons, Interviews and Features**

Since May of 1998 I have been writing a regular lesson column for Bass Frontiers Magazine, “Ask The Pro” at [www.talkbass.com](http://www.talkbass.com), and lesson columnist at [www.bassically.net](http://www.bassically.net). In addition I have conducted a number of interviews for Bass Frontiers as well as Bassics Magazine. Here is a list of my lesson articles, interviews that I have conducted as well as features on me.

- 5 Minutes to Slap Technique; Volume 5 Number 3; 1998
- Making Chords Work; Volume 5 Number 4; 1998
- Chord Study: Blues in F (Part 1); Volume 5 Number 5; 1998
- Chord Study: Blues in F (Part 2); Volume 6 Number 1; 1999
- Chord Study: Blues in F (Part 3); Volume 6 Number 4; 1999
- Chord Study: Adding a Melody Line (Part 4); Volume 6 Number 5; 1999
- Fundamental Reading; Volume 7 Number 1; 2000
- Reading Essentials; Volume 7 Number 4; 2000
- Seven Steps to heaven – Seven Steps to Building a Better Bass Line; Volume 7 Number 5; 2000
- The Art of Soloing; Volume 8 Number 2; 2001

You can also check out some of the in-depth interviews that I have conducted, including:

### Bass Frontiers Magazine

- Michael Tobias: Volume 5 Number 5, Ron Carter & Oteil Burbridge on cover
- Gary Willis: Volume 5 Number 6, Nathan East on cover.
- Mark Egan: Volume 6 Number 5, Glenn Worf on cover
- Vinnie Fodera and Joey Lauricella of Fodera Guitars: Volume 6 Number 5, Glenn Worf on cover
- Victor Wooten: Volume 7 Number 1, Victor Wooten on cover
- Joe Gallant: Volume 7 Number 2, Duck Dunn on cover
- Andy Cichon: Volume 7 Number 5, Geddy Lee on cover
- Chuck Rainey: Volume 8 Number 2; 2001; Chuck Rainey on cover

### Bassics Magazine

- Matthew Garrison: Issue #27; Marcus Miller on cover

I have been fortunate enough to have others think that I might have something important to say. You can find in depth interviews with me at:

- [www.talkbass.com](http://www.talkbass.com)
- [www.globalbass.com](http://www.globalbass.com)
- [www.bassically.net](http://www.bassically.net)
- Bass Player Magazine, *Off the Shelf*, March 2001 & *In The News*, April 2003
- BASSICS Magazine, issue #30. Feature, inclusion on compilation CD w/transcription and lesson.

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