



**'Your bass is like your woman: you don't want another person to have a better relationship with it! So much of the tone comes from your fingertips, and you need to find a bass that's so comfortable you can forget what you're playing.'**

is like your woman: you don't want another person to have a better relationship with it! So much of the tone comes from your fingertips, and you need to find a bass that's so comfortable you can forget what you're playing, and that's why guys like Jaco, Victor, Stanley Clarke, Larry Graham ... those guys have always played the same bass. Marcus Miller has been playing the same bass since he was a teenager and he knows it so well it doesn't get in his way.' Still, that hasn't stopped Anthony amassing a collection of 40 or so different basses, including an acoustic, three upright basses, a tenor and piccolo bass, a 6-string fretless and a 7-string. 'As a teacher I've got to be ready and proficient on all those instruments and be able to work with anything ... Well, that's just my excuse for owning a bunch of different instruments!'

**'The bass player is usually the smartest one in the band, or the dumbest! You will never meet a piano player who doesn't know the notes on the piano, but I've met some great bass players who don't even know the notes on the bass.'**

heard Victor Wooten say once, "If you have a music question, turn it into a language question and you'll have the answer." So if you're thinking, "Should I learn how to read music?" ask yourself, "Should I learn how to read English?" And then the answer becomes obvious.

### **Vix Lix**

It's fair to say that, teaching and Bassology aside, it's Anthony's exploits with the

Victor Wooten Band that have raised his profile on this side of the pond. 'Victor has been a big inspiration to me. We're the same age but I look at my relationship with him as an apprenticeship. He's such an amazing person and his musicianship speaks for itself, but even if he was the worst musician on the planet, I'd still enjoy hanging out with him.' Initially employed to handle Victor's basses while on the

road, Anthony soon found himself onstage trading licks with Wooten. 'There's always a lesson with Victor. I always felt that he'd planned on me playing, and sure enough, about three shows into the tour I was onstage playing bass!'

Besides often sharing the stage with Victor, Anthony is rarely seen without his Fodera bass. 'I've been playing my Fodera since 2000 and that's the only bass I play live. Your bass

**For more information on Anthony's projects, or to arrange an online lesson, visit [www.anthonwellington.com](http://www.anthonwellington.com).**