



Win a Micro Bass

For centuries, bass instruments have relied on size to amplify low pitches. But some clever designers are showing that “low” doesn’t have to be “large.” Micro-basses like Gold Tone’s GT series (and the similarly small Kala U•Bass) use clever physics, electronics, and special strings to sound like basses nearly twice as large. Not only are they portable, but their shorter necks make notes easier to reach. Want to hear for yourself? We’ve posted some video demos on our online contest page. Between now and December 1, 2014, you can enter to win a Gold Tone GT bass of your own. Learn how at intunemonthly.com/category/contests.

music [news]

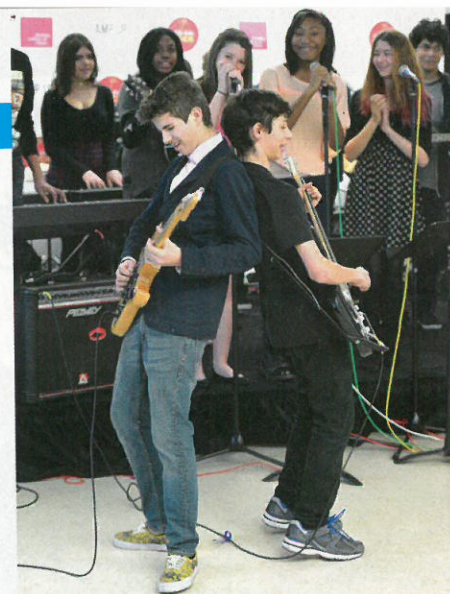
High-Tech Conducting

It takes many years of training to master the art of conducting. But at a new high-tech installation in Leipzig, Germany’s Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Museum, visitors are experiencing the next best thing by using a touch screen and baton to control a virtual symphony. A computer running Ableton Live and Max for Live software sends the sound to an array of speakers spread around the room, each dedicated to a different group of instruments. As motion sensors track the baton’s movements, sophisticated technology sends tempo information to Live, which speeds up and slows down based on the conductor’s actions. Read more and see the video at ableton.com



Blue Devils Set DCI Record

Concord, California’s Blue Devils posted the highest score in the history of the Drum Corps International finals en route to the group’s 16th World Championship at Indianapolis’s Lucas Oil Stadium in August. The win followed similar success by the group’s “junior” corps, Blue Devils B, which took the DCI Open Class crown in Michigan City, Indiana, a few days earlier. You can read, see, and hear more from the Drum Corps International World Championships—as well as other cool DCI events, including DrumLine Battle and SoundSport—at DCI.org.



Modern Band in The Big City

The largest privately funded music program in U.S. history, Amp Up is “modernizing” music education in New York City. Working with the organization Little Kids Rock, the Berklee College of Music, and a number of musical instrument makers, the city will bring “Modern Band”—where students learn songs on guitar, bass, drum set, keyboards, vocals, and computers—to 600 schools and more than 60,000 students (grades K-12). Organizers hope to bring similar programs to other districts around the country soon. littlekidsrock.org/ampupnyc



Surfing Electronic Drums

With electronic drums sounding better and becoming more affordable, many young musicians are using them as an alternative (or addition) to acoustic percussion. Electronic drums produce many different sounds, and because they use pads to trigger digital sounds, players can listen on headphones if they want to practice quietly. Some models even come with built-in educational tools. Yamaha, which makes both acoustic and electronic drums, recently highlighted this growing trend by launching a website dedicated to its DTX drum kits. In addition to product info, the site includes educational resources and more. yamahadtx.com