

The Top Twelve Things You Can Do To Insure That Your Ensembles Will Have No Bass Players

By Pat Morvan

1. Make certain that there are no music ensembles at your school that would benefit from a string bass player, ei. Loud marching band only or no music program at all.
2. Never, never, never tune the bass. Preferably a few of the strings would be missing.
3. Make certain that all instructors have no knowledge of or a desire to learn how to play the bass.
4. Force students to use the German bow if they want to use the French bow or visa versa.
5. Allow only students who are struggling with a violin or viola to play the bass. You can also assign the double bass to the larger students only and make certain that it is perceived that it is a punishment for being large thus ostracizing the student from the group.
6. Make certain that all basses at your school are in unplayable condition. Bridges should be bent and the action either too high or too low to make a musical sound. If bridges are not bent or tops are glued solidly, you can leave the basses outside in the rain for a few days to ensure warping.
7. If one of your best violinists expresses a desire to learn the bass, ignore them. If this does not work transfer them to choir or marching band.
8. Make all students, especially elementary students, start on the $\frac{3}{4}$ bass. It would be helpful also if you made them stand up, and by all means, do not supply a stool.
9. Do not allow the electric bass to be played in your ensembles. It might encourage the students to try the acoustic bass. If you must have an electric bass in your ensemble, make certain that you call the electric bass the “real bass” and the acoustic the “old bass”.
10. If a string bass player transfers from another school deny the fact that you have a string group and encourage them to take up the tuba. You have to nip these things in the bud.
11. If you must start a student on the acoustic bass do not allow them to keep an extra instrument at home. Make them carry the bass home everyday and preferably from class to class. This should solve the problem.
12. Put all bass players in the front of the group and always have them play their part as a solo especially those you know who can not play their part. Ridicule them as desired.