**BASS NOTATION LEGEND**

Bass music can be notated two different ways: on a musical staff, and in tablature.

**THE MUSICAL STAFF** shows pitches and rhythms and is divided by bar lines into measures. Pitches are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet.

**TABLATURE** graphically represents the bass fingerboard. Each horizontal line represents a string, and each number represents a fret.

**HAMMER-ON:** Strike the first (lower) note with one finger, then sound the higher note (on the same string) with another finger by fretting it without picking.

**PULL-OFF:** Place both fingers on the notes to be sounded. Strike the first note and without picking, pull the finger off to sound the second (lower) note.

**TRILL:** Very rapidly alternate between the notes indicated with the “pick-hand” index or right-hand tap: Hammer (“tap”) the string(s) without depressing them and striking them with the pick hand.

**MUDDLEED STRINGS:** A percussive sound is produced by laying the fret hand across the interval shown.

**BEND:** Strike the note and bend up the interval shown.

**BEND AND RELEASE:** Strike the note and bend up as indicated, then release back to the original note. Only the first note is struck.

**RIGHT-HAND TAP:** Hammer ("tap") the fret indicated with the "pick-hand" index or middle finger and pull off to the note fretted by the fret hand.

**LEFT-HAND TAP:** Hammer ("tap") the fret indicated with the "fret-hand" index or middle finger.

**SLAP:** Strike ("slap") string with right-hand thumb.

**POD:** Snap ("pop") string with right-hand index or middle finger.

**NATURAL HARMONIC:** Strike the note while the fret hand lightly touches the string directly over the fret indicated.

**BASS FIG.**

**D.C. al Fine**

**Fill**

**tacet**

**D.S. al Coda**

**Additional Musical Definitions**

- **(accent)** • Accentuate note (play it louder).

- **(accent)** • Accentuate note with great intensity.

- **(staccato)** • Play the note short.

- • Downstroke

- • Upstroke

- • Go back to the sign (§), then play until the measure marked "To Coda," then skip to the section labelled "Coda."

- • Go back to the beginning of the song and play until the measure marked "Fine" (end).

- • Label used to recall a recurring pattern.

- • Label used to identify a brief melodic figure which is to be inserted into the arrangement.

- • Instrument is silent (drops out).

- • Repeat measures between signs.

- • When a repeated section has different endings, play the first ending only the first time and the second ending only the second time.

**NOTE:** Tablature numbers in parentheses mean:

1. The note is being sustained over a system (note in standard notation is tied), or
2. The note is sustained, but a new articulation (such as a hammer-on, pull-off, slide or vibrate) begins.