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# BASS PLAYER



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**RHONDA SMITH**  
GETS DOWN WITH **PRINCE**



but in this exercise we'll play for just two bars and repeat. You can also play a melodic pattern over this same rhythm (Ex. 2b). Practice different note choices over this rhythm, and come up with your own interpretations. Ex. 3a is a two-bar groove in A minor that implies the V and IV chord. Try displacing different parts of the groove (Ex. 3b), but still keeping it a two-bar phrase.

I recommend picking up a few different rhythmic-study books to push your reading and understanding of groove to the next level. Try to set up a practice schedule where you get a set amount of time every day; I break up my practice routine into several different areas. Even if you spend as little as 15 minutes per day on one subject (such as displacement), as long as your effort is consistent and dedicated, you'll see great improvement. There are so many different areas to work on—reading, transcribing, soloing, chord progressions, scales, arpeggios, etc.—so a thought-out routine will help you touch on the various subjects daily. A common

mistake I see is that people try to play faster than they really can. If you're making any mistakes or glitches, you need to slow down the metronome or drum machine to a tempo where you can play accurately and dynamically. I've found that by playing slowly, I really grasp what I'm working on. With displacement it's especially good to practice at a slow tempo!

Displacing ideas always pushes your ear into new rhythmic territory and often inspires new ideas. Please take these few examples and augment them to make them your own. Music is infinite—you should never feel you've run out of material to learn and work on. Entire books can be written about simple ideas. So if you ever hit a wall and you aren't sure how to break through, there's always displacement. **BP**

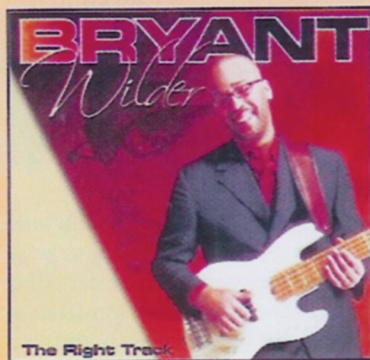
*Jane's Addiction bassist Chris Chaney has performed and recorded with Alanis Morissette, Michelle Branch, Tommy Lee, Rob Zombie, Celine Dion, and many others.*



## COOL GROOVE

### Thumpin' For The Lord

You'll be in seventh heaven once you get the hang of this groove by New York's Bryant Wilder. A nod to seven's sacred significance, "God's # in Completion" is the seventh cut on *The Right Track*, a bass-heavy album released by Wilder's own PluckWild Music. Wilder, who is active in New York City's gospel and R&B scenes, lays down some serious thump in 7/4 time. Try to get a handle on the all-thumb slap pattern first, especially the four-against-three feel that's happening in beats five through seven. [www.bryantwilder.com](http://www.bryantwilder.com)

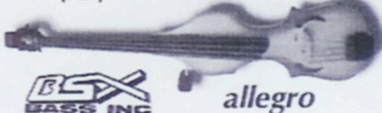


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