

I love it—but it's a totally different instrument.

One thing that really impressed me in the 70s was when I saw Paco de Lucia and John MacLaughlin playing acoustic guitar, it was so musical and they had such a command over their instrument. That kind of touch was something I was looking for in my playing. From there on I started to work on my technique with the Classical school of discipline but with fingerings and technique that would work on bass guitar.

What did you learn from recording your first CD that has helped to make your new CD better?

One thing I learned is to trust myself. Music is so much a question of taste and you can do a song or a whole record in so many different ways, not necessary better or worse, but different. I learned also not to be shy with the high end. I am also much more aware of how much different strings, basses and amps can change the character of one song.

Where are you recording your new CD?

My new CD is basically recorded at the Musicbox studio in Pargas, Finland. Some overdubs are recorded in Helsinki and the part where Armand Sabal-Lecco is featured was recorded in Los Angeles.

How will the new CD be different than your last one?

On the new CD the bass is more in the front and I experimented a little more with the bass sound. I am also using my new Neuser piccolo bass on a few tracks. I recorded most of the bass parts stereo and I doubled some riffs. On most of the tracks I used my Fafner to get the nice tube distortion for high end and the EBS1-V2 for low end. The CD includes more live playing, too!

How have you been able to maintain such a great relationship with your family while at the same time pursuing a career in music?

If you give something you get something! That goes with everything in life. If you love your children, they love you. If you love your wife, she loves you. You have to prioritize things. When the children are young it's important to stay home and take care of them as much as possible. Children can not wait for you, they grow up. Your music career can wait, if you need to choose.

It is a question of not being too selfish. You need to do your thing, too, but there is a time for everything, if you have the patience to wait for it. The harmony in life is the most important. It's not about the dollars. I admit it's easier with the money in the bank, but without harmony you can get lost! I will be very happy if I can continue to do records in the future, even if the sales are not that good. I do not need to be the best or the baddest in anything—I am quite happy now. ▼

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