

BASSNOTES

New & Noteworthy

Fountains of Wayne bassist and producer **Adam Schlesinger** has formed a curious partnership in Tinted Windows, his new band with ex-Smashing Pumpkins guitarist James Iha, singer Taylor Hanson, and Cheap Trick drummer Bun E. Carlos. The band's self-titled debut album is out now.

Garage-rock superhero Jack White is ditching guitar for drums in his newest band the Dead Weather, which features singer Alison Mosshart and Queens of the Stone Age guitarist Dean Fertita. White's Raconteurs bandmate **Jack Lawrence** (right) will hold down the bottom on the Dead Weather's debut, *Horehound*, out this month. —BRIAN FOX



DeVotchKa's Jeanie Schroder On Diversifying Your Bands

"OUR MUSIC HAS A PRIMEVAL ATTRACTION," SAYS DEVOTCHKA'S BASSIST AND tuba player Jeanie Schroder. "You hear it and you don't even know why you like it!" DeVotchKa's eclectic sound recently caught the ear of Les Claypool, who invited the band to join his Spring '09 Oddities Tour. "We try hard to get in front of as many audiences as possible, because we've found that we hardly ever get a bad reaction," says Schroder. "People would see the sousaphone or the accordion and laugh, but then when we start playing, their response changes."

What's a lesson you've learned from playing upright bass?

I had the honor of taking a master class with Milt Hinton, who came to Denver for a jazz festival years ago. He recommended learning lots of different styles to help your bass playing. I thought this was great advice, and have tried to follow it. I've played in Celtic bands, jazz trios, and even a Civil War reenactment band.

How do you decide whether to play upright bass or tuba on a given song?

It's an intuitive feeling. On tunes that need more punch, I tend to use tuba.

How are you finding new ways to keep your music interesting?

I'm hoping to work a Mexican *guitarrón* into our next album. It's different from a regular bass because you plucking two strings at a time—almost like a harp—playing in octaves. It has a really unique sound and it looks cool! —CONTESSA ABONO

CHECK HER OUT



DeVotchKa, *A Mad & Faithful Telling*
[Anti-, 2008]

GEAR

Bass 3/4-size upright with K&K

Sounds Golden Trinity pickup

Rig Acoustic Image Clarus I head,

Euphonic Audio Wizzy 1x12 cab

Other Boss TR-2 Tremolo

and TU-2 Chromatic

Tuner

Strings D'Addario Helicore

Hybrids or Thomastik

Dominant

Other Coda bow, Pops'

Bass Rosin

