



Dave Swift is the bassist for the Jools Holland Rhythm & Blues Orchestra and has worked with a whole range of artists who often guest on Jools' albums and TV shows. He often finds himself switching between electric bass, double bass and EUB so we asked some questions about playing EUB in a high profile band after checking out how he got into this whole bass guitar business in the first place...

"Even though my two older brothers played guitar at home, and I showed a passing interest at a young age, I had no ambition to become a musician myself. However, I did take up the trombone at school when I was 14. That was the most formal training I've ever had. Not long afterwards, I volunteered to learn the bass guitar for the school band. When my trombone teacher realised I could play it, he advised me to take up the double bass also. And very good advice it was too! I didn't know of any bass teachers, so I bought every book I could find on the electric and acoustic bass and taught myself. I turned professional at 18, but because I had good reading skills and played both instruments, a lot of my

ASK THE EXPERT... DAVESWIFT

work was in theatres, or doing TV and radio sessions. I have to admit to playing on more than my fair share of cruise ships too! Sadly, back then the Rock n' Roll lifestyle that I've grown to love was a long way off!"

How is the Yamaha Silent Bass you play fitting into your current gig?

"I got recommended for the Jools gig because he'd always used bass guitarists, but this time he wanted an upright player, as this was better suited to the music. I used my acoustic bass solely for several years, but it was a constant struggle amplifying it. In the end I switched to bass guitar and tried to get it to sound as much like an upright as I could. I've always had a fascination with the EUB but a lot of them are far from ideal. I received the Yamaha Silent

Photo: Dave Swift surprises his boss, Jools Holland, with a new arrival: the Yamaha Silent Bass!