

Adapting A Vocal Melody To The Bass

This is my step by step guide to performing a vocal melody on the bass. These are the things that I always think about when approaching a vocal melody and adapting it to the bass guitar. To see the YouTube video that accompanies this list please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZeEy5DIw6I&fbclid=IwAR3yeiMhQGs3e1pY8o4XdETF06SMbcYu04pkz-xuG8LGJAs5eXtcftAg>

1. Always start with the vocals & lyrics.
 2. Capture the vocals melodic phrasing.
 3. Look at each word & syllable. How are these sung?
 4. Perform with the vocals in mind.
 5. Don't mask the melody with fills, ornamentation and riffs. This takes away from the most important element.....The melody.
 6. Look at the rhythmical phrasing when playing highly syncopated melodies.
 7. Learn the melody by heart and use the lyrics as an overall guide. Have the lyric sheet on your music stand.
 8. The bass is a great, under rated instrument on which to play melodies. The instrument range is close to the human voice. Especially the 6 string or extended range bass.
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