

BILLY SHEEHAN'S BASS PLAYING TECHNIQUE IN THE SONG *OBLIVION*

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Abstract : The bass player played a significant role in something of a band's team, though in a rock band more than a guitar player or vocalist. Billy Sheehan is a different figure in regard to methods, presentation, and progressive acumen in his bass game. Together with *The Winery Dogs*, they drafted a drill song called *Oblivion* that combined progressive techniques in their game. The research takes a qualitative approach that reflects the condition of the research object the *Oblivion* of the bass play method and Billy Sheehan's key analyzed source information, which the research described in a descriptive way to respond to the research case. Gathering information in the research employs method of documentary study. Based on the findings of this research, Billy Sheehan in a *Oblivion* song uses a mixture of plucking techniques and tapping techniques combined with the method of lead guitar play. As a result of this study, the authors found that Billy created new styles that made his bass game a unique performance, and looking back on it was a rich bass-game technique.

Keywords : *Bass Playing Technique, Electric Bass, Billy Sheehan*

INTRODUCTION

The history of rock music has carved out some famous figures, but when compared and the fame of other staff, especially guitarists and entertainers, music gang bassists rarely get the spotlight (Moorfield, 2010)). All things being equal, not all reliable bassists lose their glory to other instrumentalists. Among some of these rock bassists, there is the name: Duff McKagan (Guns N' Roses), Paul McCartney (The Beatles), as well as Gordon Summer or Sting from The Police. However, many people also say that, their existence is because besides playing bass, they are also the vocalist of the music group.

Of the names mentioned above, Billy Sheehan of the band The Winery Canines is one of the bassists who has been praised for his cleverness in playing the bass instrument. The bassist, who will be 69 years old in 2022, is considered to have no opponent in terms of equal skill and fame of other music team bassists in the mid-

90s. No one can match the skill and fame, or the person and level of popularity among individuals of the same group, than Billy Sheehan.

The rock public recognizes Billy Sheehan for his skills and techniques as a "Lead-Bass" technique. Thanks to this ability, he has the same privilege as his colleagues in The Winery Canines, namely Richie Kotzen who is also recorded in rock history as a guitar virtuoso, as well as the vocalist of The Winery Dogs. In fact, generally in a musical group, the prestige of a vocalist beats the prestige of other personnel.

Billy Sheehan is able to combine percussive elements with melodic (chording) so that it becomes the main brand that makes Billy Sheehan better than other rock bassists. Whereas the bassists who were famous when Billy, generally only presented or coupled with the bassist component as a percussive musicality watch. The second characteristic that makes Billy Sheehan worthy of being

called a virtuoso bassist is his expertise in utilizing the two-gave tapping technique, on an electric bass that was previously only referred to or used as a strategy for playing electric guitar. If guitarist Eddie Van Halen adopted this method from Jimi Page, Billy Sheehan developed a two-handed tapping strategy for bassists.

Of the two advantages, the record of Billy Sheehan's ability is his expertise in applying the three finger picking procedure in playing his low register guitar. Billy Sheehan dislikes bassists as a general rule, where he often uses a controlled sound critique, in real life. The stage is very similar to a two-handed tapping strategy, this input control was previously used by guitarists, not bass players. Billy Sheehan's skills are recorded in albums, videos and performances of musical groups he has played with, including Talas, David Lee Roth Band, Mr. Big, Niacin and The Winery Dogs. Which makes Billy Sheehan repeatedly inhabit the top rankings in the prestigious Guitar Player magazine poll "Best Rock Bass Player".

With The Winery Dogs music group, Billy Sheehan has recorded several songs that use strategies and playing skills that are truly unmatched, unlike the bass playing techniques used in rock songs as usual. Some of the famous songs from The Winery Dogs include, We are one, Elevate, Criminal, i am no angel, and also the song *Oblivion* which hit in 2015 on The Winery Dogs album Hot Streak. This *Oblivion* song is observed one of the songs of tempo speed, precision in playing notes, as well as the uniqueness and accuracy of the technique, has high technique and skill, and the skill in playing.

RESEARCH METHOD

The data obtained in this research is classified as qualitative data. Moleong stated that the main data sources in qualitative research are words and actions, while written data, photographs, and statistics are additional data. Data

collection in this research is using the following methods:

- *Online media interview*

These interviews only hold layouts requested from interviewees, in this case including expert interviewees related to the subject matter of this exploration. In addition, expected encounters in this research include interviews with online media (magazines or online music destinations) that have conveyed or exchanged ideas with Billy Sheehan.

- *Documentary Study*

Documentary study is a technique of gathering information by collecting and dissecting records, whether in the form of reports (notes, recordings, books, papers, magazines), image information or electronic information such as sound, video discography, etc.), viewing and combining (integrated), to frame a methodical, clear and unblemished review. The narrative review alludes more to the discographical concentration related to Billy Sheehan's bass learning, execution, and procedure of playing low-tone guitar and then announced as an exam. The utilization of this strategy relies on the thought that assuming there are mistakes, the source of information is still unchanged and has not changed.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Billy Sheehan's Bass Playing Technique in 'Oblivion'

Billy Sheehan was born into the world as William Sheehan in the US. He has been in the music industry for over 44 years, especially bass. A great game with a very mastered strategy coupled with a combined strategy that he thinks is different. In every performance, Billy generally delivers something unique. Not only that, there are many strange game strategies shown by Billy, but if you look at his game, it greatly improves the strategy of playing bass.

Apart from being with Mr. Enormous, Billy has also formed bands under the

names Talas and Niacin. He has also worked with world artists such as Steve Vai, David Lee Roth, Edi Van Hallen and others usually. A long time in the music world and working with many artists has made Billy more mature. The game is also getting more and more varied.

Billy made a recent fashion that makes his bass playing a thrilling performance. The recent craze came from the acceptance of the methods of playing piano, drums, flamingo guitar and others that Billy also learned. From then on it makes amazing beats and songs. Connect with how to play the bass, specifically by utilizing the notes and middle finger of the right hand to play the strings. Center on fingering, limiting the development of the wrist and arm. Figure out how to switch the playing between the list and middle fingers. Work out the exchange between the strings in the IMIM design where I is the index finger and M is the middle finger. The thumb can be utilized as a support on the posterior of the Bass.

When figuring out how to play bass, it's best if the unstressed strings don't ring or vibrate with the others. Place two hands on the bass and try to get a familiar position with your left hand, perhaps in the center or in the middle of the bass tuning pin. Put your left hand down, placing your index finger on the main fret and the other finger on the nearest fret. Start from the topmost string including the free tone string: (E) FF#GA A. Continue on the A, D and G strings. Press the strings with your left hand rather hard so that when playing the bass strings the sound is quite precise. Keep away from free sounds or vibrations from different strings.

As for some procedures used by Billy Sheehan in playing the bass guitar, namely the use of the song Obscurity, namely,

1. Alternate Picking. This is the approach to playing bass that is most often used by bassists. In fact, alternate picking is an important approach to playing this instrument. basically, in this procedure

we play the bass with two fingers on the other side. The fingers commonly used are the index finger and the middle finger.

2. Up Down Thumb. This procedure involves the thumb as a pick. Generally, the other four fingers are used as plucking tools. This method is like playing the guitar. Replaces the record and middle fingers that are usually used to play bass with the thumb. Victor Wooten is the person who uses this procedure the most.
3. Slap. It's called slap because this strategy is similar to slapping the Bass. Assuming you often listen to music from the band super hot stew peppers, you probably know all about the sound delivered with this method. The premise of this strategy is to cause a ruckus around town with your thumb or palm. so that the subsequent sound tends to be more similar to percussion.
4. Tapping. This procedure is also related to the bass. try pressing the string with your fingertips on the bass fret. the reason is almost the same as pressing the console button on a PC. But remember, slide your finger like when poking.
5. Pop. This is the strategy of pulling the strings, then letting go so that they hit the frets. The resulting sound will often closely resemble the sound of two objects being punched together. This strategy is usually combined with the slap method to create an interesting mix of sounds. In essence, slap and pop produce sound characters that are not much different. Pop also has many types, one of which is double courage (pulling two strings at once).
6. Bass Bending. Like the Bending technique (lifting the strings with the fingertips) on the guitar, but done at the end of the bass. The step-by-step instructions for playing this procedure are to press the string on the Headstock (the final part of the bass, where the pendulum as a rule pivots to tune)

when the string is plucked. This strategy will produce a humming sound on every note. Usually Billy Sheehan often uses this procedure.

CONCLUSION

Referring to the results of this research, it is concluded that there are several things related to the topic raised in this research problem as follows. Billy Sheehan was born into the world with the name William Sheehan in the US. He has been in the music world for more than 44 years, especially bass. A brilliant game with a very mastered strategy plus a consolidation strategy that he thinks is different. In every performance, Billy generally delivers something special. Not only that, there are many unusual playing strategies shown by Billy, but if you look at his playing, it greatly improves the procedure of playing bass.

Apart from being with The winery dongs, Billy also formed bands under the names Mr. Huge, Taro and Niacin. He has also worked with world artists such as Steve Vai, David Lee Roth, Edi Van Hallen and others in general. Being in the music industry for a long time and working with many artists has made Billy grow. The game is also getting more diverse. Billy made a recent fad that made his bass playing an interesting performance. This recent trend was obtained from the acceptance of the method of playing piano, drums, flamingo guitar and others that Billy also learned. From then on it makes amazing beats and songs. In his ever-evolving playing strategies, Billy Sheehan uses procedures including: Up Down Thumb, Alternate Picking, Tapping, Slap, Pop, and Neck Bending.

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