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From the Editor's Desk

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Photo by Adrienne Merit, 2008

Jeremy Baguyos in the Recital Hall of the Strauss Performing Arts Center, University of Nebraska at Omaha

By Jeremy C. Baguyos

I first joined the ISB as a student member at the urging of Charles Hoag, one of my bass teachers when I was growing up in Kansas. For me, the most important benefit of ISB membership was the ISB's journal. Back in those days when the primary tools for research were card catalogs and the RILM Abstracts, I couldn't just do a Google search on the keywords "double bass" to learn more about my instrument and other bassists. The journal of the International Society of Bassists, presently titled *Bass World*, was my only link to the national and international double bass community. It expanded my perspective and inspired me to pursue excellence in my activities as a bassist. It continues to enrich my understanding of the instrument and connect me with other bassists and their work. There were and still are many compelling, insightful, inspiring, and informative articles written about the double bass. I always admired the editors who helped facilitate the production of the ISB journal, especially the ones who communicated by phone and snail-mail, wrote articles with a typewriter, and did layout by hand.

This is my first column as the Editor of *Bass World* and the *Online Journal of Bass Research* (<http://ojbr.com>), two publications by the International Society of Bassists. This is an honor that I do not take lightly, not just because of my admiration for previous editors, but also because some of the most respected bass players in the profession have entrusted me with the job of facilitating one of the ISB's primary means of sharing the wealth of intellectual capital that resides in

the minds, fingers, and hearts of its members. I'm writing this article so the ISB membership has a general idea of what is going on in my head as I embark on the new post of Editor. Currently, as I sit in my favorite chair in the living room of my house in Omaha, Nebraska, USA, I'm thinking once again about the purpose and value of *Bass World* and *OJBR* to the bass community.

Bass World is part of traditional print media, and as such, its role should always be evaluated since digital media and so-called new media continue to proliferate unabated. Unlike most digital media, ISB publications are governed by an established academic and professional society whose guiding leaders and founders are accepted as experts in the field of double bass. A decade and a half of egalitarian grass-roots digital media has not (as some doomsayers were predicting) killed off print media and its traditional top-down approaches to content management. Instead, print media is even more relevant today as readers want to be sure that what they are reading can be trusted. In other words, print media is usually vetted and can be trusted as a resource. At least that's what I see as *Bass World's* role, a trusted bass resource in the Information Age. Anyone who has visited online double bass forums and blogs knows that digital media can have its drawbacks even when it is moderated.

This is not to say that the ISB is not interested in an online publication presence. The ISB has always recognized the value of digital media and was quick to establish itself as a leader in online discourse about the double bass. In 2003, Joëlle Morton and the ISB founded the *Online Journal of Bass Research* (<http://ojbr.com>). The *OJBR* sets some of the highest standards for online articles about the bass. *OJBR* is a refereed academic journal where articles go through a process of blind and rigorous peer review. In starting and maintaining *OJBR*, the ISB is not just at the forefront of new media about the double bass, but it sets the highest possible standards among the many online voices that produce content about the double bass. By the way, there are some good bass blogs on the Internet including blogs by Jason Heath and Jeff Weisner, and I read them regularly.

Part of my role as editor is content management. The content management of *Bass World* and *OJBR* involves maintaining and increasing its value as a trusted bass resource. Also, I want to make sure that

Bass World and *OJBR* continue to strive to be international in their outlook, eclectic in their representation of genres and ideas, and diverse in their projection of identity especially as it pertains to nationality, gender, and ethnic background. If any academic and professional society is to thrive, its primary media needs to not only reflect the needs of the current membership, but also reflect what that society would like to become as an international entity for double bassists in a global bass community. This is easier said than done. As a first step, I am going to err on the side of inclusiveness and attempt to cast as wide a net as possible when it comes to content generation and management. In any attempt to be inclusive, there is a danger of trying to become everything to everybody, or compromising the level of discourse that previous editors, columnists, and authors have worked so hard to attain. This is where communication with you and expansion of the pool of article submissions from you, the members, is paramount. As I take these first steps as Editor, I will always strive to make sure that *Bass World* and *OJBR* will continue to reflect the values and identity of the ISB in a diverse, global community and maintain its standing as a trusted resource in the bass community.

If you should ever need to contact me about anything regarding *Bass World* or the *Online Journal of Bass Research*, please do not hesitate to send me e-mail at jbkontra@hotmail.com. Or you can send e-mail to the ISB office at info@isbworldoffice.com. Several of you have contacted me already with specific suggestions and general ideas, and I appreciate your input. I have been working very hard to implement some of the suggestions that I receive, and I welcome any ideas regarding *Bass World* and *Online Journal of Bass Research*. Most of all, I welcome your article submissions and proposals. If you are interested in submitting an article to *Bass World* please see <http://isbworldoffice.com/publications/bws submissions.html>. If you are interested in submitting an article to the *Online Journal of Bass Research*, please see <http://www.ojbr.com/guidelines.html>.

Jeremy C. Baguyos was appointed Editor of the ISB's Bass World and Online Journal of Bass Research in 2010. He is Assistant Professor of Music Technology / Artist-Faculty of Double Bass at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and is active as a composer and performer of computer music. He spends his summers as Principal Double Bass of the Des Moines Metro Opera Summer Music Festival Orchestra.