JON DEAK, COMPOSER/FOUNDER, NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC VERY YOUNG COMPOSERS:
I’m Jon Deak. I’m a composer, and this is my friend here — the bass! And it’s usually played with the bow. [playing bass as he speaks]

Sometimes with the fingers.

Because it’s a very large instrument, it can go very low.

But it can also go very high.

It can sound like a birdie.

Like an auto horn.

“Hey, get out of the way!”

It can sound like a creaking door.

“Hello. Welcome to my castle.”

It can sound very serious.

It can be silly.

It can be scary.

“Woo!”

And it can talk.

Hello! Can you say, “Hello, how are you?”

Ha! That’s pretty good, ah.

It can do all kinds of things, and because I’m a composer, and I hope you are too, I can write a piece for it. This is a piece that I wrote, it’s called “BB Wolf.” It means, Big Bad Wolf, right? And a part of it sounds like this. I’m just showing you different things the bass can do.

“When I see a pig, I have to chase it. It’s in my nature. It has to be. Oooh! Yeah! The pig, however, shares the same compulsion. When he sees me, he has to flee!”