

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

THE TECHNIQUE OF WALKING BASS

**CASE STUDY: THE COMPARISON BETWEEN ZAILAN RAZAK AND
RUSLAN IMAM IN THE SONG '*LIHATLAH*' by Ahmad Jaafar.**

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Declaration of Authorship

"I declare that this thesis is the result of my own work with the exception of the ideas and summaries which I have clarified their sources. This thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted as candidature for any degree"

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ABSTRACT

The main objective in conducting this research is to compare the technique of walking bass between these two bassists, Ruslan Imam and Zailan Razak. Walking bass is a technique of playing movement line that is created from scale and chord tone. Besides that, there are other approaches those are chromatic approach, passing tone and ghost note which will make a strong walking bass line. For the purpose of this fundamental research topic, the song *Lihatlah* by Ahmad Jaafar has been using for this research. The reason as to the song been chosen is because this song is one of the earliest jazz song in Malaysia.

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CHAPTER 1.0

Introduction

1.0 Scope of Study

The title of my research topic: *The Technique of Walking Bass* – focuses on the differences of technique and approach. The extent of this research encompasses two well-known bassists: Ruslan Imam and Zailan Razak; where I aim at looking into the following three (3) main focuses of interests:

1. What is the difference between Ruslan Imam's and Zailan Razak's technique of playing walking bass in the song *Lihatlah*?
2. Will this research help in the technique of playing walking bass?
3. Will this research provide more than 2 possibilities of walking bass technique?

1.1 Research objective

Walking bass is a technique of playing movement line that is created from scale and chord tone. Besides that, there are other approaches those are chromatic approach, passing tone and ghost note or stumble which will make a strong walking bass line. The main objective in conducting this research is to compare the technique of walking bass between these two bassists.

This thesis centers on a case study between two professional bassists; Ruslan Imam and Zailan Razak. Both of these performers are well known in the Malaysian music industry and had performed all over Asia. However, these two bassists have a different background of music education. Hence, it is my interest to study the differences between them.

The song *Lihatlah* by Ahmad Jaafar has been using for this research. The reason as to the song been chosen is because this song is one of the earliest jazz song in Malaysia.