

Tower of Power Sits In

Tower of Power guitarist Mark Harper (left) demonstrates technique to student Mauricio Hersykowicz on Hersykowicz's Telecaster.

photo by alex wright

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Funk music is about feel. So when members of a great funk band drop by a rehearsal where you're working on *their* music and show you how they would play it on *your* drums or guitar, that becomes a pretty good day of contemporary music education. Even if you're already at Berklee.

The 19 members of Berklee's Tower of Power (ToP) Ensemble got that and more when several members of the Bay Area-based band visited Berklee last semester.

"He was the one who made me want to play the horn. I was really nervous," said student saxophonist Amanda Corvini about ToP reedman Stephen "Doc" Kupka, in an interview with a reporter from an Emerson College news service.

Wayne Naus, associate professor of harmony, founded the student ensemble in 2000 and continues to direct the group. He said he believed the band's visit would have a long-term impact on his students.