

IMPROVISATION

The art of spontaneous creation in the area of musical, artistic, or verbal/dramatic expression.

Improvisation fluency depends on a combination of building a large vocabulary + bold & adventurous practicing of music (not just jazz licks and fundamentals).

Listen, listen, listen and listen is the key to cultivating your improvisational instincts.

1. SOUND & VIBRATO
 - a. classical
 - b. jazz/improvisation
2. ARTICULATION
 - a. classical
 - b. jazz/improvisation
3. RHYTHM
 - a. classical
 - b. jazz/improvisation
4. NOTE CHOICES
 - A. SCALES
 - B. ARPEGGIOS/CHORDS
 - C. LICKS/PATTERNS

There are many ingredients in the recipe for improvisation, some of which are musical, but equally important are the personal/spiritual ingredients

PERSONAL INGREDIENTS:

1. DESIRE - INTEREST - MOTIVATION (essential for any serious pursuit)
2. CREATIVE DRIVE (all beings have this quality waiting to be cultivated)
3. COMMUNICATION (playing music is all about communicating with your musical mates + the listening audience). **PLAYING IN A SECRET CLOSET IS NOT COMMUNICATING!**

MUSICAL INGREDIENTS:

1. FUNDAMENTALS (TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE)
 - a. SCALES and ARPEGGIOS
 - b. HARMONY/THEORY
2. RHYTHMIC STRENGTH (intense practice with a metronome)

3. SIGHT-READING SKILLS (standard music notation including chord symbols)
4. EAR TRAINING (awareness of surrounding harmonic and rhythmic sounds)
5. LISTENING SKILLS (recordings and live performances)