

“JOY OF IMPROVISATION” WORKSHOP

Robert E. Bowman, DMA

Studio of Joanne Masters
11 La Serena Ct, Alamo, Ca.
Saturday/Sunday October 3-4, 2009

ENROLLMENT FORM
(copy for additional entries)

Participant's Name _____ Address _____ City _____
Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ Teacher _____ Teacher's
Phone _____ Age ___ CM Level ___ Guild level ___ Years of piano lessons ___
2nd Instrument/Voice _____ Experience improvising: none ___ some ___ extensive ___
If "some" or "more", please indicate what you have done: Play Pop songs by ear ___ Classical Style ___
Ethnic ___ Blues ___ Jazz ___ Free form ___ Previous Joy of Improvisation Workshops? I ___ II ___ III ___
Topics of interest for this workshop _____

SIGN UP FOR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOP LEVELS:

JOY OF IMPROVISATION I (Little or no prior improvisation experience required)

Level	Single session	Double session
Preparatory (CM Level-Prep-1: Guild EA)(Age 5-6)	_____	_____
Beginner (CM level 1- 2; Guild EA-EE)	_____	_____
Intermediate (CM Level 3-4/Guild EF-IB)	_____	_____

JOY OF IMPROVISATION II (Some prior improvisation experience recommended)

Level	Single session	Double session
Intermediate (CM Level 3-4/Guild EF-IB)	_____	_____
Upper Intermediate (CM Levels 5-6/Guild IC-F)	_____	_____

JOY OF IMPROVISATION III (More extensive improvisation experience).

Level	Single session	Double Session
Advanced (CM Levels 7-10/Guild IE-F PA-D)	_____	_____

SPECIAL ADULT WORKSHOP

INDIVIDUAL SESSION(S) (\$50/session) _____

SPECIAL TEACHER'S WORKSHOP _____

Preferred date/Starting time: Sat ___ Sun ___ 10 am ___ 11 am ___ 12 noon ___ 2 pm ___ 3 pm ___ 4 pm ___ 5 pm ___

WORKSHOP TUITION:

Early registration (through Sept 30): 50 minute session--\$15 1 hour- 45 minute session--\$25 Individual sessions-\$50

Late registration (after Sept 30): \$5 processing fee

Materials may be purchased at the workshop-\$8 (soft cover) or \$10 (hard cover binder).

E-mail the registration form to Dr. Robert Bowman: bowmanpiano@gmail.com and send the tuition check to Dr. Robert Bowman, 1220 Glenn Haven Drive, Chico, Ca 95926.

NOTE: You will be notified by phone and/or e-mail about the time for your session.

THE JOY OF IMPROVISATION SERIES OF WORKSHOPS

presented by

DR. ROBERT E. BOWMAN, workshop facilitator

The Joy of Improvisation I—Help! You want me to do what?

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the wonderful world of Improvisation for Musicians, including those with traditional classical training who would love to improvise, but just don't know how to begin. A practical and fun approach that demystifies the art of improvisation and helps build self confidence through simple exercises that build upon concepts and abilities participants already possess as well as introduce new concepts and skills that can be developed over time after the workshop. Using simple structured approaches, participants will learn how to create short pieces representative of selected Classical, World, Folk, and Blues styles. In addition, they will begin to explore and express their own music.

WORKSHOP CONTENT* Basic principles and creation of short solo and group improvisations selected from the following:

- Basic principles.
- African rhythms
- Contrast (range, dynamics, articulations, and timbre)
- Interval fragments and scales (pentatonic, whole tone, chromatic, modal, major, minor, and blues in C)
- Triads of the major scale and the I IV I V7 I cadence in various voicings.
- Figured bass and lead sheet symbols for the above cadences.
- Introduce cadences using secondary chords. Repeat the progressions using various keyboard figurations. Decorate with non-chord tones.
- Harmonization “Go Tell Aunt Rhody” and/or other folk songs using I IV6/4 V6/5 chords and secondary chords with block chords and familiar keyboard figurations.
- Short prelude in the style of Bach.
- Beginning 12 bar blues.

*NOTE: Other topics may be substituted for those listed above according to the needs and interests of the participants.

The Joy of Improvisation II—O.K. So I’ve begun, now what?

BRIEF WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: A further exploration into the wonderful world of Improvisation, including those with traditional classical training, who have begun to improvise but want to do more. Recommended for participants who have two or more years of instruction on their instrument, intermediate level music reading skills, and some experience improvising.

WORKSHOP CONTENT (selected from the following):

- Review pentatonic, whole tone, and chromatic fragments and scales and fingering.
- Create an impressionistic piece in the style of Debussy (use ABA or Rondo form).
- Introduce and create a free improvisation built on Japanese pentatonic scales.
- Improvise on a Gregorian chant.
- Learn to transpose modal scales.
- Complete short modal fragments and extend into longer improvisations.
- Play “Greensleeves” and harmonize with chords of the Dorian and minor scales.
- Complete “Camel Music” (ABA form; Aeolian and Ionian Modes).
- Review I IV I V7 I cadence, modify with substitute chords, and add non-chord tones with various voicings.
- Harmonize selected folk songs with block chords and keyboard figurations.
- Review of Blues Scale fingerings and Boogie bass patterns, blues intros, endings, intermediate 12 bar blues.

Joy of Improvisation III---You know you can do it, now go for it!

BRIEF WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: A continuation of workshops I and II for advanced students who have experience with improvisation.

WORKSHOP CONTENT* Creation of short solo and group improvisations selected from the following:

- Review of basic principals, practical application, and historical antecedents.
- Create an Indian Raga based on Bhairav That.
- Create an Avant Guard piece (as “weird” as possible).
- Improvise variations on a Schubert Waltz.
- Improvise variations on “Ein Chorale” by Schumann.
- Improvise a prelude in the style of J. S. Bach, Pachelbel, et al.
- Introduce figured bass realization and explore embellished accompaniments.
- Study and play examples of ornamented melodic lines and reprises in music from the Renaissance, Corelli, Bach, Benda, Quantz, Telemann, Mozart, and Chopin.
- “Trading 8’s over the circle of fifths progression, Pachelbel Canon, and other ground basses.
- Discuss 7th Chords and the scales which are most appropriate for jazz improvisation.
- Introduce fingerings for blues, diminished, pentatonic, and whole tone scales.
- Learn the ii-V-I progression with different jazz voicings.
- Create a group improvisation based on ii-V-I in the style of a jazz waltz.
- Explore intermediate/advanced blues progressions, walking basses, comping, and common “licks” and create a group “Blues” improvisation.
- Explore and improvise upon selected jazz standards.
- Improvising through memory slips.

NOTE: Keyboardists are encouraged to **bring a second instrument** to the workshop for special group improvisations. Please give me advanced information so that appropriate materials can be prepared. While designed primarily for keyboardists, **other instrumentalists and vocalists may also participate** with the permission of the instructor.