
Module Specifications: *School of Music*

Module Title:	Improvisation Workshop
Module Code:	BAPM111
Level:	5
Credits:	15
Pre-requisites:	

Module Description:

The module examines issues associated with the preparation and execution of improvised performance in jazz and related popular music idioms. It focuses on a repertoire of tunes and/or songs through which a variety of improvisational approaches is studied. Musicians will learn how to develop and apply musical vocabulary appropriate to the genre, both in the practice studio and in performance.

Indicative Content:

- A repertoire of contrasting tunes or songs (e.g. blues, jazz standard, modal, funk) to act as vehicles for improvisation
 - Harmonic considerations relating to the chosen repertoire
 - Rhythmic awareness and expression of groove
 - Stylistic issues such as interpretation, phrasing and time feel
 - Development of melodic, rhythmic and harmonic materials
 - Improvisational techniques and manipulation of vocabulary
 - Ear training, memory and internalisation
 - Effective practising
 - Performance and communication issues
 - Concepts of narrative and musical shape in improvised performance
 - Listening and transcription
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Learning and Teaching Methods:

The module will be delivered through practical workshops that combine theory, aural and practical skills.

Specific Learning Resources:**Bibliography**Highly Recommended

Crook, H. (2000) *Ready, Aim, Improvise*. Rottenburg: Advance Music

Harrison, M. (1999) *Contemporary Music Theory - Level Two* Milwaukee: Hal Leonard

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Steinel, M. (1995) *Building a Jazz Vocabulary*. Milwaukee: Hal Leonard Corporation

Zisman, M. (2003) *The Real Easy Book Level 1*. Petaluma: Sher Music Co.

Recommended

Grigson, L. (1988) *Practical Jazz*. London: Stainer & Bell

Coker, J. (1990) *How to Practice Jazz*. New Albany: Jamey Abersold

Background Reading

Levine, M. (1995) *The Jazz Theory Book*. Petaluma: Sher Music Co.

Berliner, P.F. (1994) *Thinking in Jazz*. Chicago: U. of Chicago Pre

Module Learning Outcomes

Subject Specific Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module you will be able to:

LO 1 | Show a developing stylistic awareness through the use of melodic, rhythmic and harmonic language

LO 2 | Improvise with fluency and accuracy using a variety of improvisational techniques

LO 3 | Convey a sense of spontaneity, narrative and structure when improvising

LO 4 | Utilise different practice methods to facilitate improvised performance

Assessment Title or element

Weighting (%)

Performance (Improvised performance based on chosen repertoire)

70%

Practical examination (Unprepared improvisation, performance of transcribed improvisation, study solo)

30%

Information correct at point of publication.