

Adding Improvisation and Composition to Your Band Rehearsals

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Topics

Improvisation and Composition

Improvisation Exercise & Examples

Composition Concepts & Examples

Finding Time

Questions

Improvisation

*The **spontaneous creation** of original, meaningful musical ideas (without revision) in the moment of performance.*

Composition

*The discontinuous process of creating and refining original, meaningful musical ideas with the opportunity to **reflect** and **revise**.*

Improvisation Exercise

Melody

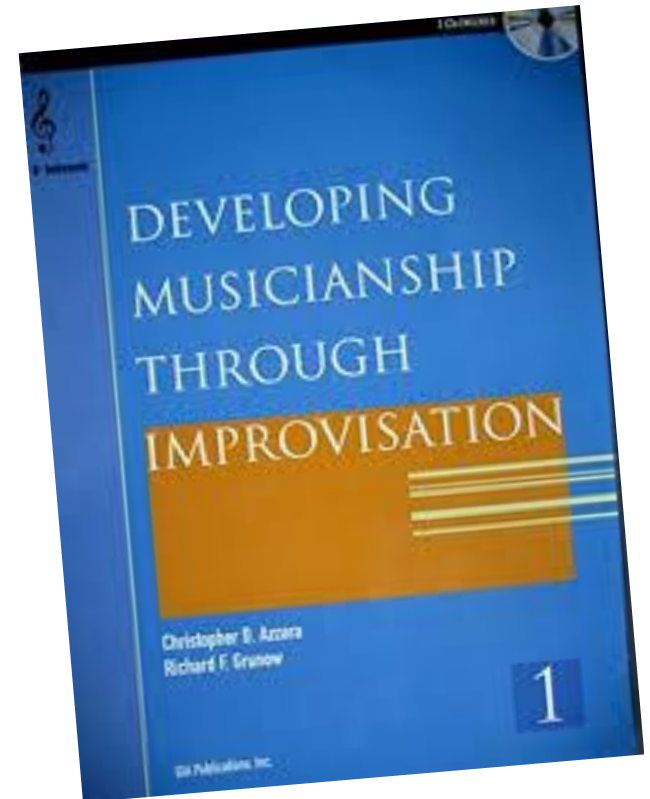
Bass

Rhythmic improvising

Inner voices

Big beat arpeggios

Passing/neighbor tones



Long, Long Ago

Long Long Ago Alex Improvisation C 9/3/19

The image shows a handwritten musical score for the song "Long, Long Ago" by Alex Improvisation, dated 9/3/19. The score is written on four staves of music, each starting with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The music is written in a simple, accessible style, likely for guitar. The chords are indicated by letters C and G above the staves. The first staff begins with a C chord, followed by a G chord. The second staff has C, G, and C chords. The third staff has G, C, G, and C chords. The fourth staff has C, G, and C chords. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Composing Concepts

- Notation
- Sound to sight
- Limits

chunk

cnayuoraedtihssnetnece?

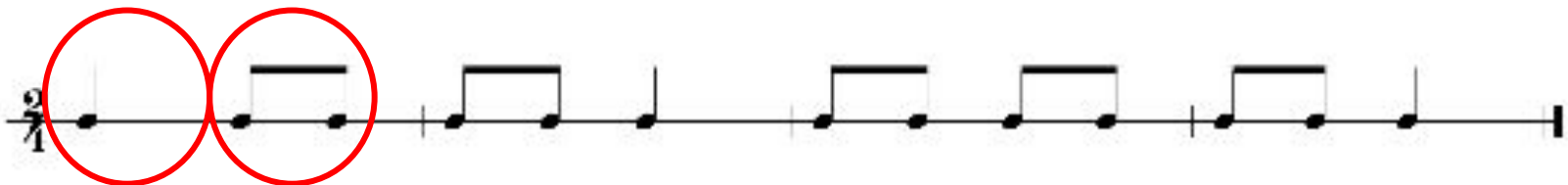
cna yuo raed tihs snetnece?

“Chunking”

Name: _____

Band: Day 1 / Day 2

Perform this rhythm on your instrument. You can choose whatever pitch(es) you like! Have a partner listen to your performance.



Copy the rhythm above onto this blank staff below:



“Chunking” (7th grade)

1. Circle every quarter note in the following exercise and write in the counting:


A handwritten musical exercise on a single staff in 4/4 time. The notes are circled, and counting is written below. The exercise consists of two measures. The first measure contains: a quarter note (1), a beamed eighth note pair (2+), a quarter note (3), and a quarter rest (4). The second measure contains: a beamed eighth note pair (1+), a quarter note (2), a beamed eighth note pair (3+), a quarter note (4), a quarter rest (1), a beamed eighth note pair (2+), a quarter note (3), and a quarter note (4).

2. Circle every half note in the following exercise and write in the counting:

Two lines of handwritten musical exercises on a single staff in 4/4 time. The notes are circled, and counting is written below. The first line contains: a quarter note (1), a half note (2+), a quarter note (1), a quarter rest (2), a half note (1+), a quarter note (2), a half note (1+), and a quarter note (2). The second line contains: a half note (1+), a half note (2+), a quarter note (1), a quarter note (2), a quarter rest (1), a half note (2+), a quarter note (1), and a quarter note (2).

Improvisation to notation (7th grade)

Directions for Part I

1. Play the first four measures of Exercises 1 & 2.
2. Improvise an ending (*consequent phrase*) that fits with the first half (*antecedent phrase*).
3. Compose the consequent phrase.
4. Use only quarter notes and paired eighth notes. 

Exercise 1:



Exercise 2:



Guidelines and limitations

Song-writing

1. Write a 4-line poem
2. Notate the rhythm
3. Add pitches to the rhythm
4. Write a bass line to accompany the melody

Guidelines and limitations

Original composition

- Write an 8-measure, diatonic melody and bass line
- Major Tonality
- Use ONLY tonic, dominant, and subdominant
- Use conventional notation, or any other means to preserve and share your composition

Maximizing time

- Warm-ups
- Have students create their own rhythms
- Song-of-the-week
- Call-and-response
- After concerts
- Composition / Arranging project
- In lessons as part of the curriculum

Band Repertoire

*A Scottish Ballade - arr. Sheldon

A Shaker Hymn - arr. O'Reilly

Air from County Derry
- arr. Kreines

All the Pretty Little Horses
- arr. Boysen, Jr.

*Amazing Grace - Ticheli

*Shenandoah - Ticheli

Japanese Folk Trilogy
- arr. McGinty

Scarborough Fair - arr. Smith

Shepherd's Hey - arr. Balent

Siyahamba - arr. Wagner

*Sleepers, Wake - Bach/Williams

*Swahili Folk Hymn - arr. Mixon

Wayfaring Stranger - arr. Nelson

When Johnny Comes Marching
Home - arr. Balent

Questions?

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