

Brief Descriptions of Improvisation Clinics

I can give workshop/clinics on a choice of subjects. I have had great success using any one of my last three books as the subject matter for a clinic. These books are: *Expansions* – a method for developing new material for improvisation (Hal Leonard Pub.); *Connecting Jazz Theory* (Hal Leonard Pub.); and *Triad Pairs For Jazz* (Warner Bros. Pub.) A general description of each of these is given below. The depth and duration of a clinic depends on the time available and the level of the students. Private lesson are also a possibility, particularly for more advanced students. In most cases, my publishers can send complimentary copies of these books to the school in advance of the clinic so students and faculty can prepare questions and/or select specific subject matter to be covered in the clinic.

Expansions

This is a practice method which shows the student how to render a great variety of harmonic and melodic structures from the commonly used seven-tone (major, harmonic minor, melodic minor, harmonic major, etc.) scales, as well as from symmetrical and synthetic scales, and other interval sets. This is extremely useful for developing instrumental technique, ear training, sonority recognition, effective note choices, and all around harmonic and melodic insight. The subject of musical context is discussed – determining such matters as how much dissonance (or consonance) a particular musical setting can tolerate, and rhythmic possibilities within various jazz idioms (ie. bebop, Latin, fusion, even-eight, etc.). The clinic applies to all instruments.

Connecting Jazz Theory

A follow-up to Expansions. Subjects include: (1) thoughts on chord/scale theory; (2) the extraction of pentatonic scales and triad pairs from diatonic scales, symmetrical scales, etc. – their interrelationships and application possibilities; (3) developing exercises you can use to integrate the above materials into your jazz improvisation by applying them to selected jazz repertoire. It includes example solos. For all instruments.

Triad Pairs For Jazz

This focuses on the extraction of triad pairs from diatonic and symmetrical scales, similar to what is discussed in the "Connecting" clinic described above, but taken from a different and very practical perspective, and in more detail. It presents a quite extensive method for practicing triad pairs, rendering a great variety of melodic patterns. Examples illustrate triad pair application over chord functions. All instruments.

A General Small Group, Jazz Improvisation Workshop

This involves listening to the students play together and playing with them. I make suggestions and illustrate such matters as:
Listening as you play – group interaction
Playing in a consistent and appropriate style
Playing different tempos and grooves
Maintaining ensemble balance – relative volume of each instrument – a must for swinging
Playing with different types of energy
Repertoire

Equipment Needed for Clinic Presentation:

Blackboard with music staves

Piano

Public address system with voice microphone if the room is large