
CREATIVITY isn't just
for “creative” people.



There's a lot less making stuff up
when you improvise
than most people think.



Learning how to improvise
teaches you how to speak
the language of music.



Learning how to improvise
takes no more talent than,
but no less effort than,
learning a second language.



You cannot *command*
yourself to improvise...
You can only *prepare*
yourself to improvise.



The gift of musical intuition
is the inevitable reward
for internalizing lots of
musically-useful patterns...
by ear, intellect, eye, and muscle.



You cannot improvise fluently
one-note-at-a-time any more than
you can speak English fluently
one-syl-la-ble-at-a-time.



A real musician does not
think of scales, chords, chord
progressions, form, and meter
as *nouns*, but as VERBS!



You can only fluently play music
that is already inside of you.

In other words,

No MUSIC IN, no MUSIC OUT!



When you **STUDY**, it's OK
to let your “**LEFT-BRAIN**” lead,
but when you **PERFORM**,
let your “**RIGHT-BRAIN**” lead.



Improvisation, at its best,
is a collaboration between
structure & freedom.



Improvisation, at its best, is a
PERSONAL EXPRESSION
within a
COLLECTIVE TRADITION.



Improvisation, at its best,
is not a clever calculation,
but an **HONEST EXPRESSION**
of who you really are.



Improvisation, at its best,
is not about imposing one's will,
but about being receptive
to what is happening in the moment.



Don't get distracted by
each and every note...
PLAY the IDEA!



*“Don’t be thorough...
BE MEMORABLE.”*

-- Michael Callahan



Don't *try* to be unique.
Just BE YOURSELF!



If your music is fun to make,
it will be fun to listen to!



Flashy playing might
impress some people,
but AUTHENTICITY
will *move* people.

