

Improvising we learn music.

An educational path for musical improvisation

Workshop with **Arnolfo Borsacchi** (Audiation Institute - Italy)

Improvising in music is, for many, musicians and non-musicians, a challenge that is often frightening.

But what does it mean to improvise and how do you learn to do it?

To improvise in music you need something to improvise on and something to improvise with. Not only that: when we improvise we learn to orient ourselves in the musical language in an ever deeper and more conscious way.

We learn roads and paths that allow us to move in music in a multidimensional way and we acquire the ability to move within these paths by making personal and creative choices. Walking these paths while singing is a fundamental step in the process of acquiring improvisation skills that can be easily transported to any musical instrument.

The awareness and the structures of audiation that develop by living a musical experience that assigns improvisation a central role allow the development of informal and formal musical skills fundamental to orient oneself in music even when we do not have to improvise but perform a known piece, evoking it or reading it, in groups or alone.

This workshop presents participants with a path that will allow the sequential acquisition of improvisation skills.

From melodies to harmonic and rhythmic structures, from phrases to patterns. We will discover that it is possible to improvise without formally knowing the music but also that small formal information allows us to organize our musical ideas and to choose them effectively and consciously, expanding the richness of our improvisations.

Participants will discover that improvisation is not a point of arrival within a musical learning path but an irreplaceable activity that allows everyone, young and old, to creatively manipulate music.

The proposed path is based on Edwin E. Gordon's Music Learning Theory and on the improvisation studies of C. Azzara, deepened and reworked by the teacher Arnolfo Borsacchi (Italy).

The workshop is open to musicians and music teachers (singers and instrumentalists), professionals and non-professionals, to music lovers and to choir and orchestra conductors.

The reflections proposed and the techniques learned constitute a precious support for music education and teaching practices for school-age pupils and adults.

Duration of the Workshop: 18h (with translation)

Contents of the workshop:

- 18 sequential levels to develop musical improvisation skills
- the concept of audiation in Edwin E. Gordon's Music Learning Theory - the repertoire: melodies and harmonic structures
- informal and formal musical improvisation skills

- the quote, the quodlibet, the medley
- improvise with the basic elements of musical syntax - verbal association according to the moveable DO
- the Gordonian rhythmic verbal association
- bass lines and voicings
- tonal and rhythmic patterns
- silence and space
- lifts, trampolines and swings around harmony

Arnolfo: Borsacchi:

Rome, 1978. Musician and music educator. Jazz saxophone player. Faculty at Audiation Institute. Since 1999 he works as music educator according to the principles of Edwin E. Gordon's Music Learning Theory with children since 0 years old. He has studied, between others, with E.E. Gordon, Dina Alexander, Christopher Azzara in Italy, Portugal and United States. He spreads Music Learning Theory contents worldwide with training activities in many countries, from Chile to Georgia, passing through Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey and Italy. In Italy he teaches at the Audiation Institute International Training Course. He has written the book "Educare alla musica. Insegnare la musica", published by LIM - Libreria Musicale Italiana. Member and ideator of the projects Quarteto Gordon, MiniMiniature and Miniature as singer and songwriter. He plays sax with Triticotrio.

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