

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: IMPROVISATION IN POPULAR MUSIC
Status: Definitive
Code: **5503POP** (108570)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool School of Art & Design
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Community College

Team	Leader
Stuart Borthwick	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ5
Credit Value: 12.00
Total Delivered Hours: 51.00
Total Learning Hours: 120
Private Study: 69

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	20.000
Practical	20.000
Seminar	8.000
Tutorial	2.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Exam	AS1	End of module test on scale/chord knowledge	30.0	1.00
Presentation	AS2	summative practical assessments of no more than 30 minutes per student at the end of semester 1	35.0	
Presentation	AS3	summative practical assessments of no more than 30 minutes per student at the end of semester 2	35.0	

Aims

To develop fluency in improvisation across a range of popular music styles including blues, jazz, Latin and rock.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Apply the use of major and minor scales, their modes and their harmonies for the creation of riffs and phrases for improvisation within a popular/jazz context.
- 2 Use the blues scale and 12 bar blues form with their associated dominant 7th arpeggios/ chords, in the most common blues keys and be able to play a variety of popular/jazz phrases and patterns fluently.
- 3 Consolidate the use of the major scale modes and their related chords, in music that contains shifts of key centre, and chords of no less than 2 bars, with fluency.
- 4 Play, with reasonable fluency, melodic and harmonic lines over rapid changes of chords.
- 5 Improvise with reasonable fluency over Rhythm Changes tunes – such as: Anthropology, Oleo, Lester Leaps In.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

EXAM	1				
Practical Assessment	2	3	4	5	
Practical Assessment	2	3	4	5	

Outline Syllabus

An introduction to improvisation in different styles of popular music.

The Dorian mode and its use in Latin and other styles.

Use of pentatonic and blues scales in improvisation.

Other modes of the major scale and their use in popular music improvising.

Key centres and the 2-5-1 progression.

Common chord progressions and the use of riffs and patterns.

Learning Activities

A series of lectures and practical sessions with occasional seminars from visiting artists/ educators, with an emphasis on practical work.

There will be occasional tutorials for individual formative feedback.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Kane, B.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Constructing Melodic Jazz Improvisation
Subtitle	Concert Key Edition
Edition	1st Ed.
Publisher	Jazz Path Publishing
ISBN	100976097753

Course Material	Book
Author	Ellenberger, K J.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	Materials and Concepts in Jazz Improvisation
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Assayer Publishing
ISBN	100970981139

Course Material	Book
Author	Finn, J.
Publishing Year	1999
Title	Mel Bay Presents Advanced Modern Rock Guitar Improvisation
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Mel Bay Publications
ISBN	100786668660

Course Material	Book
Author	Coker, J.
Publishing Year	1997
Title	Jerry Coker's Complete Method for Improvisation
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Alfred Publishing Company
ISBN	100769218563

Course Material	Book
Author	Garcia, A J.
Publishing Year	2006
Title	Cutting the Changes
Subtitle	Jazz Improvisation Via Key Centers
Edition	W51C Ed.
Publisher	Neil A. Kjos Music Company
ISBN	100849725909

Notes

This largely practical module will build on material covered in Music Theory and Listening Skills and Personal Instrumental/Vocal Development 1. Students will get to put their theoretical and practical knowledge of scales and chords to creative use and develop their improvising skills within various styles of popular music including blues, jazz, Latin and rock. It is hoped that they will continue using and developing these skills throughout their performing careers.

This Module would be enhanced by a series of seminars conducted by visiting specialist professional instrumentalists throughout the academic year (depending on availability and faculty budget).