



## CPD session #4: Improvisation and instrumental learning

### Take away task: Improvisation Study

This is a study for intermediate – advanced instrumentalists or singers, which develops focus and control within improvisation. It's also an exercise in saying what you need to say quickly! It is developed from Peter Wiegold's practice back in the day on the Guildhall Performance and Communication Skills course.

The study goes like this:

Set up a beat using a loop or metronome. 60 bpm is a good place to start.

The structure of this piece teaches you to play in tightly controlled time segments – and also encourages development.

Play for 1 bar (4 beats) – rest for 1 bar.

Play for 1 bar – rest for 1 bar.

Play for 4 bars – rest for 1 bar.

Challenge: Start on the first beat, and stop before the end of the bar (aim to not play over the barline)

You can restrict the pitch (eg to a mode, or key) or not.

I've set up a (very basic) recorded backing track over a drum loop that turns this into a duet. It works as follows:

Vibes 1 bar | YOU 1 bar | vibes 1 bar | YOU 1 bar | Vibes 4 bars | unison rhythm 1 bar.

YOU 1 bar | vibes 1 bar | you 1 bar | vibes 1 bar | YOU 4 bars | unison rhythm 1 bar

The unison is just the drum rhythm played on A's.

Vibes are playing in A minor. You can go with this or be more exploratory – up to you!

The audio file is available from <https://soundcloud.com/soundandmusic/improv-study/s-Am7eIPT4Zul>

Ideally, upload the file into a DAW (Garage Band, Logic, Reaper etc), stick on the headphones, and record your responses as a separate audio track (or midi).

OR – You could play this from any device and play along – record onto a second device.

Send your sound file to Judith [Judith.robinson@soundandmusic.org](mailto:Judith.robinson@soundandmusic.org) by the end of Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June for inclusion in next week's session!