

Creative Music Making - Spring 2012

PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE: Feb. 28, 2012

Please circle the number that most nearly represents your response.

- 1) Your experience in the Creative Music Making course has enabled a deeper knowledge of your instrument and its sound-making possibilities.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

- 2) Your experience in the Creative Music Making course has enabled a deeper level of listening - to yourself and to other ensemble members.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

- 3) Your experience in the Creative Music Making course has enabled a deeper intuitive sense in making appropriate musical responses to what you hear.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

- 4) Your experience in the Creative Music Making course has an increased your ability to embrace and accept the sounds produced by others;

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

- 5) Your experience in the Creative Music Making course has increased your confidence in musical expression and risk taking.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

- 6) Your experience in the Creative Music Making course has increased your confidence in your ability to improvise.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

- 7) Your experience in the Creative Music Making course will be helpful in playing other kinds of music.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

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Comments:

- Improvising in this course has brought to light a number of different characteristics of my playing that I hope to continue to develop through more improvising and otherwise. Great course! Flexibility with attendance was greatly appreciated.
- I have enjoyed every class and I have taken away new ideas about music each time.
- Before taking this class, I understood that there are many different ways to approach improvisation. After taking the class, I feel that I have thoroughly experienced one possible approach. One activity in particular that I really enjoyed was when the entire class sat in a circle and we went around the entire circle, playing in pairs. One thing that I struggled with in this class was not having enough confidence in what I was playing or in what I wanted to play. The rule, “you can play whatever you want to play, whenever you want to play it,” was simply not enough to make me feel comfortable contributing to the improvisation. I was very much aware that when I played, I brought down the level of artistry in the group. Perhaps I need to spend more time improvising in order to work past this. In a number of ways, this class did make me feel more comfortable improvising.
- My experience in the course has been very liberating in a way and refreshing. It’s been a good to have an “elemental” kind of music-making experience – just playing whatever you feel like instead of trying to reproduce notes on a page to perfection. I feel like learning to improvise in the course has opened me up as a musician to a whole new kind of music making, and has enhanced my experience of playing non-improvised classical music as well, in terms of making it sound that spontaneous and in terms of listening to other musicians.
- It was my first time to take an improvisation class. I was very nervous and I was not sure what to do. Through many improvisations with different groups, I realized the best improvisation can happen when we listen to our own musical language and pay attention to the other players’ responses too. I really enjoyed being in this class. I learned so many things. It was amazing to see our harmony which each instrument makes. Also, we learned how to match and blend with other players. Now I can tell I am confident with improvisation. I can say I do not hesitate to improvise creative music anymore.
- Great course! The time slot is not overwhelming; instructor uses time efficiently. I enjoyed these classes more than I thought I would when I first registered.
- I found this course very beneficial as a jazz major. Much of our time is spent learning scales, etc. and not on the essence of improvisation. This course has opened many doors for me in regard to feeling more free to make a musical contribution of any style that I feel is appropriate to the music. I will think much more openly about the possibilities of sounds and material that I can contribute at any moment. This course has also guided me in my teaching – giving students a freer atmosphere to experiment with improvisation.
- One of the biggest elements I take from this course is being able to see my potential for improvisation outside of my usual musical idiom, specifically improvising with those of a different musical background.
- I really enjoyed playing with others in this class, creating new musics that we’ve never played before. Definitely gained more confidence!