

CREATIVE MUSIC-MAKING
(Four Simple Steps to Cultivating the Inner Musician)

Workshops presented by Bill Cahn, member of the NEXUS percussion group since 1971, the Paul Winter Consort since 1973, and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra from 1965 to 1995.

What is CREATIVE MUSIC MAKING?

Creative Music Making is an interactive workshop in which musicians and music teachers of any age, student or professional, performing on any instrument can have the opportunity to deepen musicianship and expand individual expression through the creation of spontaneous, free-form music without the constraints of thinking about technique or watching printed music. All of the music created is recorded live and then discussed in a non-judgmental group round-table. Bill Cahn oversees the participants through the four simple steps of Creative Music Making.

Who can participate in CREATIVE MUSIC MAKING?

Creative Music Making is a method for any musician - professional or amateur at any technical level or any music teacher or student - to cultivate his or her musical voice.

What are the benefits of CREATIVE MUSIC MAKING?

- 1) participants gain a deeper knowledge of their instruments and sound-making possibilities;
- 2) participants attain a deeper level of listening - to themselves and to other ensemble members - forming on an acute awareness of the sounds being made;
- 3) participants utilize a more developed intuitive sense in making appropriate musical responses during performance;
- 4) participants gain an increased ability to embrace the sounds produced by others;
- 5) participants gain an increased confidence in musical expression and risk taking.

The five benefits described above can increase any performer's ability to attain a higher level of fulfillment in the performance of any genre of music - classical, chamber, jazz, popular, or ethnic music. There are additional benefits for music teachers:

- 6) teachers experience a practical method of teaching improvisation to students at any level of development - from grade school general music classes to the conservatory private studio;
- 7) teachers acquire a method for making a deeper connection with their students through a simple process of performing directly with them in lessons or in concerts;
- 8) teachers find a practical method for meeting national and state-wide standards in music education requiring student experiences in improvisation, composition, and performance.

What Are the Four Steps of CREATIVE MUSIC MAKING?

- Step 1) Playing - Participants create spontaneous, free-form music in small groups of two to six performers. No previous experience in improvisation of any kind is necessary;
- Step 2) Recording - Participants record their music for listening and analysis;
- Step 3) Listening - Participants focus on improving listening skills as a means of expanding musical vocabulary;
- Step 4) Questioning - Participants, in a group round-table format, experience the increase in understanding and confidence that results from asking appropriate self-directed questions.

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