

Tip of the week! 23 juni 2020

This week's tip is about Improvisation

Improvisation is one of the greatest things to do with students but they often find it way too scary. I found a great article about Improvisation on the internet written by Cherie Yurco and took the liberty to take out the best ones for singers.

You can read the full article on this [website](#)

1. Let go of the need to be perfect and be playful instead. Improvisation can be spontaneous, and not competitive. Take yourself lightly, laugh at your awkward places, and release criticisms.
2. The core of musicianship is listening. Listen more than you play, and imitate sounds. "You are always playing a duet with the silence around you," says cellist David Darling, founder of Music for People. Even the rhythm of a conversation or rain falling can be inspiration.
3. Go off the page. Play the first few notes of a song you have learned, then leave the melody and make up your own middle and ending.
4. Find some friends to jam with, and make improvisation a social activity.
5. Jam along to your favorite recordings to practice and build your confidence.
6. Don't focus on just the notes. Use phrasing, dynamics, and rhythmic variations to make a tune your own.
7. Learn some theory and study your scales—major and minor, blues, pentatonic. Learn what notes sound good in a key.
8. Don't think too hard. Improvisation is about playing what you feel in the moment. Be bold and trust yourself.
9. Study your idols. Learn the solos of your favorite players in different genres. Pay attention to their use of phrasing, rhythm, and dynamics. It does not have to be exact; results will come with time.
10. Like any playing skill practice is critical. The more you practice improvising, the stronger your intuition will grow, and the more confident you will be.

Have fun!