

## Learning about improvisation practice strategies as they relate to the trumpet

First of all, this is one way, not THE way, but I think it's a good way. This is the method I use with my students. Effective because it helps them to be able to teach themselves as well.

- Two major facets of trumpet improvisation in a jazz setting:
  - Mentality (Aural)
  - Physicality (Technique)
- These two facets can be isolated first, then married when in an improvised setting.
  - It's also practical to prepare an intermediary step before entering a totally improvised setting.
- Use specificity in practice, especially as they relate to goals.
  - When teaching students, encourage planning before entering the practice room
  - Make **specific goals** (i.e. making use of the 7th interval, making use of over-the-barline triplet rhythms)
- Trying to make automatic the skills the goals are related to; ingraining into playing.
- Distillation of heard solos (trumpet or otherwise) into the Mentality/Physicality duality in order to ingrain (on some level) whatever content into the student's own playing

### Aural (ask)

- Tone row to isolate pitches, remove patterns, non-serialized
- Singing
- Ingraining of specifics; this should be the zooming in on the specific goal

### Technical (ask)

- Play through things that were sung
- Identify potential technical problems
- Identify areas of technique that will be predominant (flexibility, articulation, fingers)

### Context (ask)

- Write out vocabulary that uses specific skill
- Transpose into 12 keys either using tone row or systematically with a metronome, increasing tempo.

- This helps ingrain the skill, and makes it become automatic
- Improve using skill in practice with a metronome

### **Example: Use of Sevenths**

#### **Aural:**

- Write out tone row
- Sing up and down major 7ths
- Sing up and down minor 7ths
- Trying to contextualize, sing diatonic 7ths of a certain scale

#### **Technical:**

- Play everything that was sung
- Exercise flexibility
- Devise flexibility exercise using 7ths specifically

#### **Context:**

- Listen to a solo that uses 7ths
- Write out line using 7ths over chord changes
- Practice line in every key with metronome, increasing tempo

### **Practice Recordings**

Stompin Grounds, Stafford

What's New, Akinmusire

I Hear a Rhapsody, Perry