

Theory and Application



Improvisation 1

IMPROVISATION is a concept which evokes fear and panic in budding musicians. The following suggestions are aimed at demystifying that concept, and giving a few

pointers along the way. Disclaimer: I do not have a lot of experience of improvising, but I have had friends who do!

First, let's pick a melody to work with:

Skip to My Lou (traditional)

American song air

G G D7 D7 G G D7 G

We need to get to the point where we know the melody very well, so try to memorise it. The first thing we're going to do is explore

ways of varying the melody; e.g. adding a dotted rhythm (or jazzy rhythm), or elongating some notes and shortening others:

Skip to My Lou in Swing/Jazz Style

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