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of Improv will help you break free because in this approach, the emphasis is placed on the process of creation rather than on the attainment of a perfect performance.

Improvisation has been an integral part of many musical traditions. Many of the great composers in the Western musical tradition were also great improvisers. (Until the 1800’s, improvisation was an expected part of any performance.) Indian and other world musical traditions place a great importance on improvisation as a means of emotional and spiritual expression. With the advent of Jazz and Blues, the art of improvisation has once again become a vital force in the Western musical tradition, and musicians worldwide are seeking the tools to help develop their improv potential.

For those of us who have had a traditional background, the emphasis has been on interpreting the works of Beethoven, Bach, etc. Improvisation, on the other hand, is more akin to being Beethoven, than it is to playing Beethoven! The Joy of Improv will help you break free because in this approach, the emphasis is placed on the process of creation rather than on the attainment of a perfect performance.

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Improvising is a natural human impulse in which we tap into our own limitless supply of original music. It is a process which can be learned by anyone, not just those that seem to possess a natural gift for it. While the impulse to improvise is natural, the realization of this ability can be complex. What is needed to address this complexity is a method; an approach which develops the special abilities required to access and express your musical identity. A strong foundation, including ear training, technique and theory is necessary before the freedom to improvise can truly be realized. The first books of the Joy of Improv are designed to develop this foundation, in order to help you make the transition from the interpretive world of a traditional musician, to the creative world of a player.
1. JOI Solo Pattern (transcribe and play in all keys)
2. Jazz Hanon (transpose chromatically and play in 12 keys)
3. Cmaj7 Basic Voicings (transpose to Db, D and Eb)
4. Blues: "Autumn Blues"
5. JOI Line: "Leaf Line"
6. Sing with solo (Louis Armstrong: "Struttin’ W/Some Barbecue")

1. JOI Solo Pattern

2. Jazz Hanon

3. Voicings

4. Autumn Blues

"The only th
“The only thing new under the sun is what you create.” — Lennie Tristano