



Fourth Form Music > Improvisation V

TASK 1

Watch and listen careful to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4k-uUr0BmS4>
The clip will be played twice.

1 Name as many instruments as you can that feature in this group.

2 What happens to the music when the guitar solo starts?

3 How does a trombone produce different pitches?

4 What sort of saxophone plays the solo?

5 Name three ways in which Billy Taylor suggests one can improvise around a melody.

- i)
- ii)
- iii)



TASK 2

Watch <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZbSonHGVXc> and answer the following questions.

1 Put the following musical events in the order in which they first appear in the clip. The first and last ones are completed for you:

- 1** Introduction (fixed composition)
Double bass solo
Drum solos
Guitar and piano take it in turns to play solos
Guitar solo
Piano plays alone
- 7** Coda (fixed composition)

2 What did you find impressive about this improvisation?

3 Was there anything you didn't like about it?

The pianist in this clip is the Canadian musician, Oscar Peterson.
He was one of the greatest jazz piano improvisers of all time.
He died in December 2007.



TASK 3

Improvisation is not just used in jazz music. Although improvisation is used to a much smaller extent in 'classical' music, it is still a skill particularly associated with **organists**.

Daniel Roth is the organist at St Sulpice in Paris and is one of the best organ improvisers in the world.

(St Sulpice is the church that features in *The Da Vinci Code!*)

Watch this clip (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGG3Zcc7yqw>), and answer the following questions:

- 1 There is some music on the organ – this is what M. Roth is taking as inspiration for this improvisation. What sort of music do you think it might be?

- 2 Do you like this piece or not? In either case, support your opinion with musical reasons. Is it impressive? Why?

- 3 How does an organ produce its different sounds?



TASK 4

Back to jazz. Watch the following documentary film about another of the world's great improvisers, Keith Jarrett.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZHfRjvpPxQ&feature=PlayList&p=2003271203730704&index=0&playnext=1>

In the space below, make a note of anything you particularly like or dislike or find interesting during the film:

How is Keith Jarrett like Mrs Rowell?!

He also doesn't like people coughing in the audience!

At some of his winter concerts, the audience is given cough drops to help them keep quiet.

Once, he actually walked out of a concert and refused to continue
because there was too much noise in the audience!