

Bria Skonberg Workshop Curriculum:

Evolutionary Improvising

In this workshop students will learn how to approach improvising in the way that jazz was created, starting with the melody and systematically adding options as the music evolved. Class content is cumulative, always starting at the beginner level and progressing through topics based on the aptitude of the class. Instruments are welcome; students will be encouraged to participate to practically apply what is being discussed.

Beginner

Melody - learn the melody straight
Rhythm - syncopating the melody notes
Arpeggiate the chords - learning the note choices

Intermediate

Appoggiaturas - encasing the arpeggio
Blues notes
Diatonic Scales - connecting the dots
Extensions

Intermediate Advanced

Recognizing ii-V patterns
Substitution dominant chords - tritone, diminished
Shaping your solo to tell a story

Advanced

Altered scales - connecting substitute chords
Substitute patterns
Modes and key centers
Pentatonic toolbox - using 5 note scales to navigate complicated chord changes

All levels will end with a segment on stylistic choices such as trumpet character (bends, growls, etc) integrating quotes from other songs, harmonic tension/release and the effective use of dissonance.