



## WHY IMPROVISE

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Improvisation is instant composition. Using scales, rhythm and chords a composer takes time to search, to reject and to polish whereas an improviser must dare to find fresh relationships among the musical materials, always ready for instant alteration and application. Daily practice, studying music theory and close listening will help to develop variety.

### REASONS TO IMPROVISE

(1) **To get in touch with your deepest musical personality.** Taking lessons and listening to other musicians has its place but hopefully it does not overpower our own “inner-musician”.

(2) **To gain control over your playing** so you can react better to what you play. If you make a mistake in a tune, you will be able to recover and maybe make that “mistake” part of your arrangement.

(3) **To build stamina** and concentration.

(4) Good exercise to discover and practice new rhythmic possibilities.

(5) **To begin composing your own music.** Take a phrase of your improvisation, refine it, string it together with other phrases to make an eight bar A-part, and change a few things to make a B-part.

(6) **It will allow you to concentrate on musicianship** rather than a specific melody.

(7) **To learn your dulcimer better.** You will be able to play all kinds of music.

(8) **Sometimes “everything clicks”** among the musicians and audience and you realize this is what you have worked for in your music career. *Rick Fogel*

*Give me a laundry list and I'll set it to music.* **Gioachino Antonio Rossini**