



Music Virtual Learning

# 8th Grade Orchestra

May 15, 2020



## 8th Grade Orchestra

Lesson: May 15, 2020

### **Objective/Learning Target:**

Students will learn about improvisation and try it out.

# Warm-Up





Let's Practice!



# Step 5

**Quit While You're Ahead!**

*Play a fun song!*

*Stop! Reflect on your progress!*

*Take a break before you get frustrated!*

*Play a song from last year!*

# Lesson



Check this video out

## Improvisation

- ★ Performance without planning or preparation adding variations to a melody or using new melodies, rhythms, and/or harmonies. (Making up music on the spot)
- ★ Focused on creativity and self expression
- ★ Use the knowledge you already have.
- ★ Great opportunity to communicate and respond to others through music.
- ★ Styles that include improvisation are:  
**Jazz, Bluegrass, Rock, Pop, Fiddle**



Let's learn some  
improvisation from  
Christian Howes





## Christian Howes

- ★ Violinist, educator, and composer
- ★ Well known Jazz violinist
- ★ Started violin at the age of 5
- ★ Attended Ohio State University and studied philosophy.
- ★ Has released four albums: *Heartfelt*, *Out of the Blue*, *Southern Exposure*, and *American Spirit*.
- ★ Founded the Creative Strings Workshop and Festival to help musicians study improvisation, composition, and styles outside of classical music.



Watch this introduction video before going to the next slide:



# D Major Play-Along

Beginner



Medium



Advanced



Try it on your own

After practicing with Mr. Howes  
play-along...



D Major Backing Track



- ★ Add your own rhythms
- ★ Variety of bowing styles (Slurs, spiccato, staccato, double stops)
- ★ Keep it simple & don't worry about making mistakes!
- ★ Experiment and get creative using D Major!

## Feeling Inspired?

Also try this Blues & Jazz play-along

Beginner



Medium



Advanced



# Review



# Watch Expert Improvisation Musicians

## Gypsy Jazz



## Bluegrass



## Jazz



A decorative border of musical staves and notes surrounds the central text. The border consists of four staves, one on each side, with various musical notes and stems. The bottom staff is more prominent, showing a sequence of notes including a quarter note, an eighth note, a sixteenth note, and a half note.

# Self-Assessment



Ask yourself:

- ★ How did it feel to try improvisation?
- ★ What is one thing you learned about improvisation?
- ★ Are you looking forward to trying more?

# Additional Materials



★ Check out Christian Howe's whole playlist on YouTube

○ <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6By1KZHRO2KHi59cupsiiPXU7tbyOZTw>

★ [Christian Howe's Official Website](#)

★ [Information on Improvisation](#)