



## 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!*

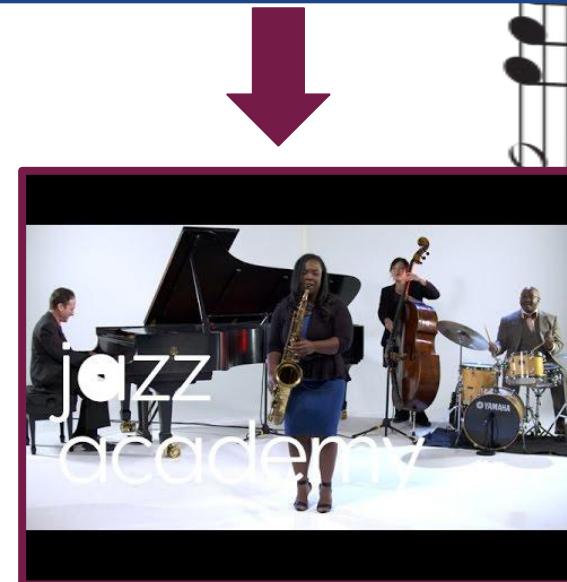


# Lesson

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...

- ★ 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!

D Major Backing Track





Feeling Inspired?

Also try this Blues & Jazz play-along

Beginner



Medium



Advanced





# Review



# Watch Expert Improvisation Musicians

Gypsy Jazz



Bluegrass



Jazz





# 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=PL6Bu1KZHRO2KHi59cupsiiPXU7tbyOZTw>
- ★ Christian Howe's Official Website
- ★ Information on Improvisation