Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice

Dr. Ajay Heble, Project Director

The International Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice (ICASP) research project explores musical improvisation as a model for social change. The project plays a leading role in defining a new field of interdisciplinary research to shape political, cultural, and ethical dialogue and action. Bringing together a dynamic international research team of 35 scholars, the ICASP project fosters innovative partnerships with numerous community-based organizations. The project seeks to have a significant effect on how research is done and how its results are implemented and disseminated, both within and beyond the academy. In addition to public discourse and scholarly publication, our work highlights collaboration with art presenters, educators, and policy makers to ensure the broadest possible impact on Canadian society.

ICASP Project Sites

University of Guelph
McGill University
University of British Columbia
University de Montreal

ICASP Project Partners

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McGill University
University of British Columbia
University de Montreal

Exhibits
In partnership with the Daniel Langlois Foundation, the McLean Institute, and the University of Guelph, CIASP has launched a teaching multimedia art exhibit of the artistic outputs of several Canadian and international improvisers. The exhibit is located at the University of Guelph, and its opening and closing dates are November 17, 2009, and December 21, 2009, respectively.

Policy Papers
Improvisation and artistic freedom
Improvigation and pedagogy
Improvigation and multiculturalism
Improvigation and cultural property rights

Outreach
To ensure the distribution of intermedial social benefits in concrete ways, the project has established innovative activities in communities across Canada. The goal is to offer collectively experienced musical workshops with various organizations in 10 communities including school groups and community organizations.

Books
"In the Mood: Improvisation and Style" by Howard Linton, a book focusing on the role of improvisation in the development of musical styles, published by The University of Chicago Press. The book is available in hardcover and paperback editions.

Partnerships
Many universities and community partners support ICASP’s collaborative research. These partners include the Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice project, which is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the University of Guelph. The project has also received funding from various provincial and federal government agencies, as well as from private foundations and individuals.

Critical Studies in Improvisation
etudes critiques en improvisation

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