

# Improviser in Residence

## A Partnership for community interaction, research communication, and musical efficacy

Based out of the University of Guelph and directed by Dr. Ajay Heble, the Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice (ICASP) research project explores musical improvisation as a model for social change. The ICASP project brings together a dynamic international research team from twenty universities. The project plays a leading role in defining a new field of interdisciplinary research to shape political, cultural, and ethical dialogue and action. In addition to research activities, ICASP works with community partners on a number of innovative outreach projects.

Beginning in January 2011, ICASP is engaging in a year long collaboration, including a series of dynamic workshops, with its first Improviser in Residence. The Improviser in Residence program is a collaborative partnership with Musagetes.

### Project Design Partners:



Improviser in Residence



The project design partners are involved in:

- Broad project vision
- Selection process
- Funding
- Budgeting
- Long-term planning

### Project Implementation Partners:



Guelph Youth Jazz Ensemble

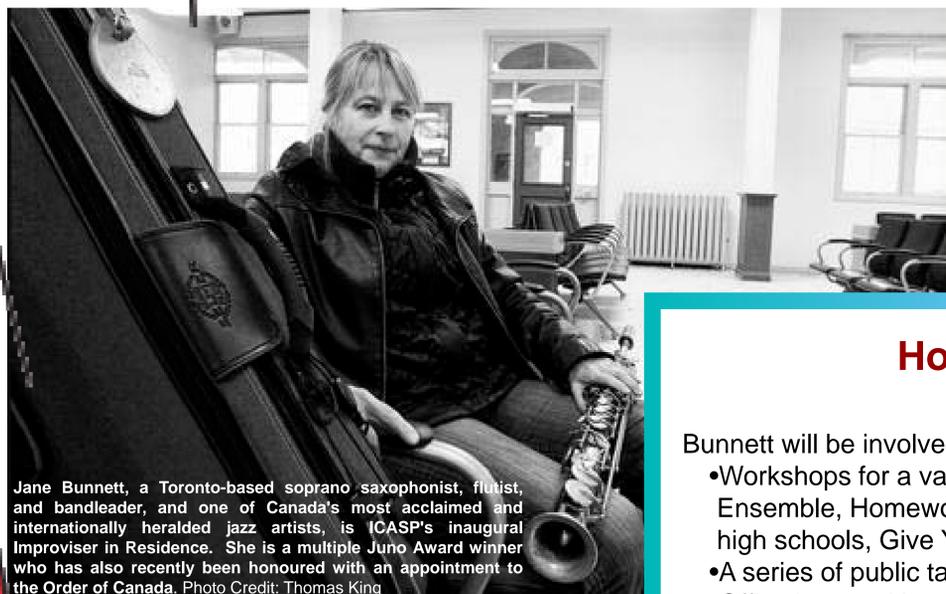
Give Yourself Credit



Contemporary Music Ensemble

The project implementation partners are involved in:

- Design of the workshops in collaboration with the Improviser in Residence
- Staffing and support for each workshop
- Consultation and ongoing feedback



Jane Bunnett, a Toronto-based soprano saxophonist, flutist, and bandleader, and one of Canada's most acclaimed and internationally heralded jazz artists, is ICASP's inaugural Improviser in Residence. She is a multiple Juno Award winner who has also recently been honoured with an appointment to the Order of Canada. Photo Credit: Thomas King

*An innovative and creative practitioner of the calibre of Jane Bunnett strengthens ICASP's commitment to diversity and collaboration, and furthers the project's continued dynamic exchange across cultural, communal, and musical lines."*

- Ajay Heble, Project Director ICASP and Artistic Director, Guelph Jazz Festival

### How will the Improviser in Residence Work in the Community?

Bunnett will be involved with ICASP and the larger Guelph community through:

- Workshops for a variety of organizations: Guelph Youth Jazz Ensemble, Contemporary Music Ensemble, Homewood Health Centre, KidsAbility Centre for Child Development, Guelph-area high schools, Give Yourself Credit, St. Joseph's Health Centre
- A series of public talks and performances
- Office hours with students and community members

### Community Outreach, Musical Partnership Showcase Events:

- ❖ March 10, 2011 – Creative Music Festival Concert with the Vertical Squirrels, University of Guelph
- ❖ April 9, 2011 – Contemporary Music Ensemble Concert, Macdonald Stewart Art Centre
- ❖ May 11, 2011 – CU Expo performance and roundtable, Wilfrid Laurier University
- ❖ June 3, 2011 – Public Jam Session and Dance Party, in partnership with the Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival
- ❖ September 10, 2011 – Guelph Jazz Festival concert with the KidsAbility Youth Ensemble
- ❖ ...plus more performances, talks and activities to be announced!

The **Improviser in Residence program** is an initiative that emerged from discussions between ICASP and Musagetes in order to provide workshops over an extended period of time. ICASP and the Guelph Jazz Festival have a history of working together to bring improvising musicians to the Guelph community; the Improviser in Residence program built upon that foundation to extend the workshops into a year-long initiative. This enables the improvising artist to develop strong relationships with participants and the broader community.

In addition to specific workshops, the design of the program also includes opportunities for the public to interact with the Improviser in Residence through performances, talks, and office hours. The project continues to evolve with ongoing feedback and as new opportunities arise – improvisation is included as an element of the project design.