

# Improvisation and Jazz, Rock, & Pop for String Players

**Jazz Workshop for Pupils, Teachers and Instrumentalists**  
4-12 participants

How can you groove on a string instrument? How can you learn how to improvise? This workshop focusses on these questions.

The workshop includes rhythm games and body percussion – they're fun and also a great way to train basic rhythmic skills. We'll explore special playing techniques and tricks that can make string instruments sound groovy, heavy, bluesy or funky. Participants will learn how to improvise solos and accompaniments, using games, exercises and some basic music theory. This workshop is designed to introduce classically trained string players to jazz, rock, & pop

## This workshop includes:

**Groove and rhythm** play a central role in jazz and popular styles. How does rhythm work in these styles? How can you groove on a string instrument? We'll be using rhythm games, body percussion, „rhythmspeak“ and our instruments to find out.

**The performance practice** of jazz, rock, and pop is different than the classical approach in string playing. Jazz phrasing, articulation, special playing techniques (such as chopping and bossa bowing), and notation will be discussed and studied playing written ensemble music.

**An introduction to improvisation** using various approaches: free improvisation, improv games, improvisation with scales, improvisation with rhythm, harmonic improvisation

## References

### Teaching

Cellist, composer and teacher Susanne Paul has been teaching jazz/rock/tango & improvisation for string players since 1998 in German, English, French & Spanish:

**Workshops:** In numerous communal music schools, the AMJ (Arbeitskreis Musik i.d.Jugend), Jeunesse Musicale  
**Orchestra Courses:** Deutsches Musikschulorchester, Akademie für Musikpädagogik, Landesmusikakademie Sachsen-Anhalt (5X), LMA Baden-Württemberg

**Teacher Training:** State Music Academies (LMA) of Baden-Württemberg, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Berlin & Hamburg, Konservatorium Zwickau, Sächsischer Streichertag, UdK Berlin, JIB Berlin, HfM Basel, Uni Oldenburg, Konservatorium Bern, Music School Management in Lower Austria (4X), Upper Austria, Vienna (2X), Salzburg, Burgenland, Tyrol

**Lectures:** German Congress of Music Schools (VdM) 2003, 2005 & 2009, University of Hildesheim, Goethe Institute Rabat (Morocco), European ESTA Conferences 2002, 2014 & 2015

**Private cello lessons:** with pupils of all ages

**University Teaching:** Bruckner-Uni Linz, Austria since 2012

### Publications:

**Groovy Strings** (Breitkopf & Härtel; 26 easy ensemble pieces and teachers' handbook. *Best Edition Prize* 2010)  
**Just Doodling** (Edition Ponticello; cello solo)

**Groovestrich-Schule** (Edition Ponticello; cello duets)  
**Tango-Ševčík** (How to play tango - 16 etudes & pieces)

### Bands & Projects:

**Move String Quartet:** SP's compositions

**Uwe Kropinski Trio:** Jazz

**Scollo con Cello:** Mediterranean duo with Etta Scollo

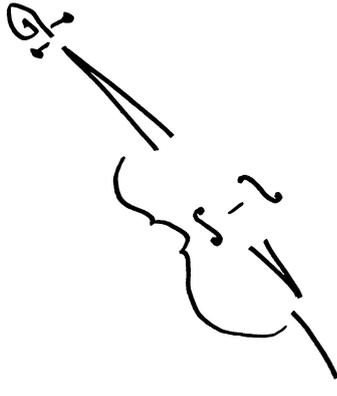
**Tango Bastardo:** String quartet for Argentinian tango

**String Thing** (1998-2006): Jazz string quartet

**Chamber Orchestra of Groove** (2003-7): Jazz string orchestra

**And many more** concerts, CDs, Radio & TV recordings in the European Jazz and World Music scene, e.g. with Carlos Bica, Arkady Shilkloper, Georg Breinschmid, Julia Hülsmann, Michel Godard, Uli Bartel, Dissidenten, Composers' Orchestra Berlin...

# Workshops and Courses with Susanne Paul



# Jazz, Rock, Tango, & Improvisation for Strings

How do you groove on a string instrument?

How can you learn to improvise?

What kind of special playing techniques and tricks are used in jazz, rock and tango?

How can string teachers incorporate jazz, rock and improvisation in their lessons?

In this flyer you can read about my four workshop formats dealing with these questions. All formats can be customized to suit individual needs!

### Contact:

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[www.groovecello.de](http://www.groovecello.de)

## Tango

### Tango Workshop for Pupils & Professionals For small group or orchestra

4-12 or 12-34 participants

„Tango is a sad thought danced...“ Argentinian tango is about opposites: it is simultaneously sad and lighthearted, sensual and cool, sentimental and harsh and always rhythmically to the point. The participants will explore typical patterns, playing styles and techniques of tango by playing special pieces and arrangements together. We will study traditional tango and tango nuevo. In smaller courses there is also opportunity for individual master classes on prepared works of tango literature (e.g. by Astor Piazzolla).

#### **This workshop includes:**

**Playing techniques:** Arrastre, chicharra, chicharra bowing, glissandos, yumba etc.

**Phrasing and sound:** Dynamics, elongation and variation, lyrical vs. percussive approach

**Approach to rhythm:** Compressed pulse, delaying and restraining

**Ensemble playing:** approach to melody, approach to accompaniment

**Common styles and genres:** Tango, vals, and milonga; traditional tango and tango nuevo

## Teaching Improvisation and Jazz

### Training for Teachers & University Students

4-12 participants

An introduction to playing and teaching jazz, rock, and improvisation, designed for music teachers of all kinds

In their workaday lives, music teachers are usually dealing with students who listen to rock and pop all day. Many of us teachers never got the chance to familiarize ourselves with these styles when we learned our trade. This workshop is designed to bridge that gap and introduce classically trained teachers to the world of jazz, rock, and pop: rhythm, performance practice, music theory, and improvisation.

Many methods of jazz teaching can be useful in classical contexts as well. How can we integrate rhythm games, improvisation games, playing by ear etc. into „classical“ music lessons?

Going deeper, we will also explore fundamental questions: What kind of thought systems and behaviour patterns is improvisation based on? What would a philosophy of improvisation look like? What concept of learning does it imply? How might pedagogy based on these principles look like?

#### **This workshop includes:**

**Rhythm:** rhythm games, groove exercises, body percussion, rhythm language

**Improvisation:** free improvisation games, harmony-based improvisation (by ear, with chord tones, with scales, with patterns)

**Performance practice:** special playing techniques, phrasing, notation, approach to rhythm, sound, ensemble playing, common styles and genres

**Didactics and Methods:** Philosophy of improvisation, maxims for teaching improvisation, the teacher's role, building trust in a group, learning targets, fundamental questions

## JazzRockPop String Orchestra

### Orchestra Project for Young Students

15-35 participants

This is not your ordinary string orchestra – we will be stewing up a whole new soup with some unusual ingredients. On the menu: special arrangements of classic rock, pop and jazz favorites (e.g. by Jimi Hendrix, ABBA, the Beatles, the Police, the Eurythmics, etc.). Seasoned to taste with rhythm games, groove exercises, body percussion and perhaps a pinch of improvisation.

#### **This workshop includes:**

**Playing techniques:** Bossa bowing, walking bass bowing, swing phrasing, percussion etc.

**Phrasing:** Accents, bowings, blue notes

**Notation:** swing notation, common big band phrasing signs, bossa bowing notation

**Approach to rhythm: What is groove?** Perception of rhythm, groove concepts („grumbling“, laid back)

**Styles:** rocking, jazzy, funky, schmaltzy, swinging, Brazilian, Cuban... whatever meets our culinary tastes!

