

Feeling Groovy - Improvisation and Jazz, Rock & Pop for Strings

Jazz Workshop for Pupils, Teachers and Instrumentalists

4-15 participants

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

Rhythm games and body percussion are 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

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:

University Teaching: Bruckner-Uni Linz (AT) since 2012; UdK (University of the Arts) Berlin since 2020, SDMK Esbjerg (DK) (2016-18)

Teacher Training: BundesMusikAkademie Trossingen (3X), HfM Basel, MSK Zurich, Konservatorium Bern, Musikschulmanagement in Lower Austria (4X), Upper Austria (2X), Vienna (2X), Salzburg, Burgenland, Tyrol, State Music Academies (LMA) of Berlin (2X), Baden-Württemberg, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Hamburg, & Brandenburg, VDM, Hessen, Konservatorium Zwickau, Sächsischer Streichtag, Uni Oldenburg, Bruckner Univ. Linz, UdK Berlin, JIB Berlin

Lectures: VdM Congresses (German Association of Music Schools) in 2003, 2005 & 2009, University of Hildesheim, Goethe Institute Rabat (Morocco), European ESTA Conferences 2002, 2014 & 2015, Swedish ESTA Conference 2017

Orchestra Courses: Deutsches Musikschulorchester, Akademie für Musikpädagogik (2X), Landesmusikakademie Sachsen-Anhalt (5X), WMK Wiesbaden, LMA Baden-Württemberg

Workshops: In numerous communal music schools (Germany, Denmark & Austria), KreativOrchester at the ElbPhilharmonie Hamburg (since 2017)

Private cello lessons: with pupils of all ages

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:

Solo, MOVE String Quartet, Uwe Kropinski Trio, with Etta Scollo, Julia Hülsmann 8tet, Yannick Dalez Stet, Maru, Twist, KammerjazzKollektiv, Kusimanten, and many more
Concerts, CDs, Radio & TV

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:

..49/ (0)1 77/ 168 2392 unterricht@groovecello.de
www.groovecello.de

Tango

Tango Workshop

For 4-15 participants

How to Play Argentine Tango Authentically

„Tango is a sad thought danced...“ Argentine 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).

Workshop Topics:

Playing techniques: Arrastre, chicharra, chicharra, látigo, 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, rhythm concepts

Common styles and genres: Tango, vals, and milonga: traditional tango and tango nuevo
It is possible to teach this course together with a colleague playing a different instrument so the course can be opened for other instruments as well!

Teaching Groove & Jazz for Strings

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 day-to-day lives, music teachers are usually dealing with students who listen to rock and pop all day. Many string teachers never got the chance to familiarize themselves with this music when learning their trade. This workshop is designed to bridge that gap and introduce classically trained teachers to jazz, rock, and pop, groove, performance practice, music theory and - last but not least - improvisation.

Many methods of jazz teaching can be useful in classical contexts as well. We will work on how to 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?

Workshop Topics:

Rhythm: rhythm games, groove exercises, body percussion, „rhythmspeak“, the inner drummer

Improvisation: free improvisation games, improvisation in blues, jazz or latin; by ear, with scales, with patterns, chords, etc.

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

Groove String Orchestra

Orchestra Project for Young Students

6-35 participants

Jazz, Rock & Pop in Large String Ensemble

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.

Workshop Topics:

Playing techniques: Groovebowing, walking bass bowing, swing phrasing, chopping, slaps, blue notes, ghost notes, percussion etc.

Playing as an Ensemble & Phrasing: playing as a section, groove & counterpoint, kicks, accents, bowings, etc.

Notation: swing notation, common big band phrasing signs, notation of groovebowing & chopping

Approach to rhythm: What is groove? Perceiving rhythm, groove concepts („grumbling“, laid back, groove in polyphony, etc.)

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