

IMPROVE YOUR ARRANGING WITH IMPROVISATION

Co-presented by Evan Feist and Marc Silverberg

- I. The Basics of group improvisation
 - A. Circle Songs-Popularized, but not invented by Bobby McFerrin
 - 1. One person starts the circle song by singing a motor
 - 2. One person adds an interlock
 - 3. One person adds a contrast
 - 4. People harmonize and fill in as needed
- II. Motor-Interlock-Contrast-
- III. Traveling Trios
 - A. A trio of singers who build a motor, interlock, and contrast sequentially.
- IV. A cappella arrangements with Motor, Interlock, and Contrast
- V. Find the Motor in pop songs
 - A. We play you a pop song, you sing the motor.
- VI. Take a motor from an existing pop song and build new loops around it.
 - A. One person sings the existing motor. Another person adds a new interlock, different from what they already know. A third person adds a new contrast. Now you have a totally new arrangement of an existing song.
- VII. Hot Spot
 - A. A game to develop and recognize familiar repertoire quickly.
 - B. Procedure: <http://www.casa.org/content/how-compete-riff-part-1>
- VIII. Hot Spot Mash-up
 - A. One person sings a song. Another person jumps into the middle and sings a different song on top of that song. A third person jumps in and sings a motor. A fourth person jumps in and sings an interlock. A fifth person jumps in and sings a contrast.
 - B. The group chooses which part they want to join and sings along.
 - C. Now you have a brand new mash-up arrangement.
- IX. Organic Arranging
 - A. One person feeds a motor, interlock, and contrast to a group of singers. They free harmonize those parts. The leader sings the melody over the top of the arrangement.

Motor: Drives the song. It is a 2-4 bar repeatable pattern that leaves space.

Interlock: Fills in the gaps. It usually starts on an upbeat and occupies the other side of the bar. The interlock zigs where the motor zags.

Contrast: Adds to the harmony by being the opposite of the Motor and interlock in terms of note length, range, syncopation, etc. It should NOT start on DO, MI, or SOL