



Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice

CALL FOR PAPERS - 2011 Guelph Jazz Festival Colloquium

University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
September 7-9, 2011

SOUND PRACTICES: IMPROVISATION, REPRESENTATION, and INTERMEDIALITY

The Guelph Jazz Festival, in conjunction with the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, the University of Guelph, and the SSHRC MCRI research project on "Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice," invites proposals for papers to be presented at our annual three-day international interdisciplinary conference. This year's colloquium will take place September 7th to 9th as part of the 18th annual Guelph Jazz Festival (September 7-11). It will bring together a diverse range of scholars, creative practitioners, arts presenters, policy makers, and members of the general public. Featuring workshops, panel discussions, keynote lectures, performances, and dialogues among researchers, artists, and audiences, the annual colloquium cuts across a range of social and institutional locations and promotes a dynamic international exchange of cultural forms and knowledges.

The 2011 edition of the colloquium will focus on the representation of musical improvisation by various visual, auditory, electronic, and textual media, and the use of media to improvise, by improvisers. Using jazz-based improvisatory practices as a key point of departure, it will examine the complex ways in which cultural meanings are produced in and through artistic and mass media. Juxtaposing fictional and documentary depictions of jazz, we will, for example, explore questions of historicity, autobiography, gender, race, form, and production, crossing disciplinary as well

as media boundaries, and theorizing the activity of listening.

Points of focus might include (but are not limited to) the following: improvisation and film; jazz in television; the recording and archiving of improvisation (how is improvisation captured, stored, and mediated); staging improvisations; graphic scores; the intersection of text and performance (slam poetry, jazz theatre, hip hop, literary representations of jazz and improvised music). Another important emphasis for the 2011 colloquium concerns the connections between improvisation and interactive technologies. Today's interactive web-based art and music performances almost inevitably incorporate a dimension of improvisation. How have new interactive technologies affected the creation and reception of improvisational musical practices, and the emergence of new conceptions of music-making? What kinds of future developments in interactivity might condition the emergence of new, hybrid notions of community-formation, along both geographical and virtual dimensions?

We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary work that speaks to both an academic audience and a general public. We also invite presenters to submit completed versions of their papers to our peer-reviewed journal, *Critical Studies in Improvisation/ Études critiques en improvisation* (www.criticalimprov.com) for consideration.

Please send (500 word) proposals or completed papers (for 15 minute delivery) and a short bio by
May 31, 2011 to

The 2011 Guelph Jazz Festival Colloquium
c/o Dr. Ajay Heble, Artistic Director, The Guelph Jazz Festival
email: jazzcoll@uoguelph.ca