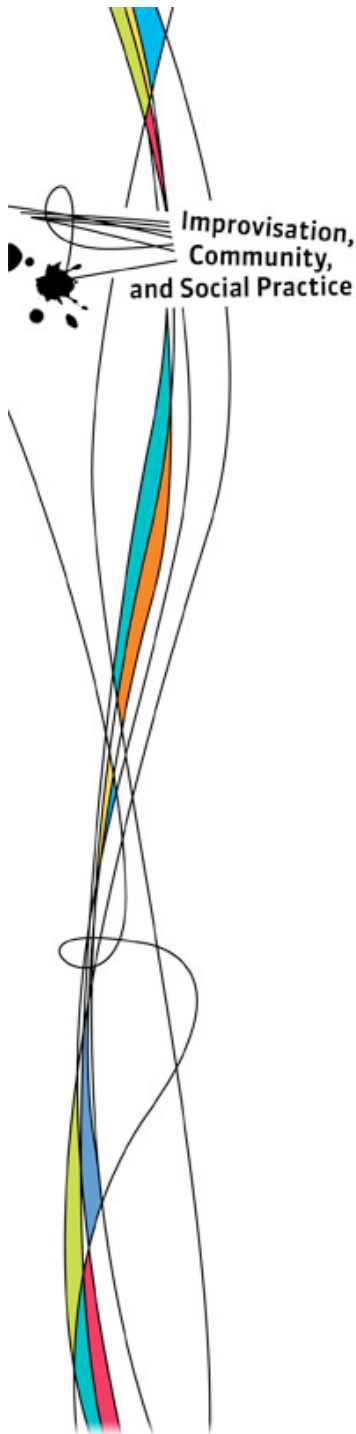


A Major Collaborative Research Initiative of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

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# ImprovNotes

## Braxton the focus of upcoming journal

The upcoming issue of *Critical Studies in Improvisation/Etudes critiques en improvisation*, the online journal of the Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice project, includes both a mini-focus on **Anthony Braxton** and continued discussion of improvisation and pedagogy.

Features include streaming video of Braxton's keynote talk from 2007 Guelph Jazz Festival and Colloquium. A full transcript of the talk will also be posted, along with articles by noted Braxton experts, **Graham Lock** and **Stuart Broomer**.

Project member **Alan Stanbridge** and **Ken Prouty** have contributed articles and there is an interview with renowned flutist, improviser, and band leader **Nicole Mitchell**.

The issue will be posted at [www.criticalimprov.com](http://www.criticalimprov.com) in mid-July.

## Wiki invites comments on Copyright Act

The Centre for Intellectual Property Policy (CIPP) at McGill University has launched a radical project: a re-draft of the Copyright Act through a wiki platform. Until July 15, 2008, participants are invited to draft articles on pressing issues of copyright reform. **Richard Gold**, CIPP director, is a co-investigator on the Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice project. McGill members of the CIPP wiki team have identified specific areas and articles of reform, but users are free to add others in the general comments section. The wiki will close on July 15, 2008.

The resulting "wikified" Copyright Act and comments will then be posted on the CIPP website and shared with its members and subscribers.

## Project journal issues call for papers

"Sexualities in Improvisation" is the theme of a special issue of *Critical Studies in Improvisation/Etudes critiques en improvisation*, the online journal of the Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice project. It will be guest-edited by management team members **Julie Dawn Smith** and **Kevin McNeilly**, research associate and associate professor respectively in the University of British Columbia's Department of English. Dr. Smith is also executive director of the Coastal Jazz and Blues Society.

### UPCOMING

See [www.improvcommunity.ca](http://www.improvcommunity.ca) for details.

Aug. 25-Sept. 7, 2008  
**Summer Institute for  
Critical Studies in  
Improvisation**

*Envisioning Improvisation as  
Social Practice*

Sept.3-5

**Guelph Jazz Festival  
Colloquium**

*Diaspora, Dispersal,  
Improvisation, and Imagination*

This special issue emerges in part from work presented at Comin' Out Swingin': Sexualities in Improvisation, a symposium organized by Drs. McNeilly and Smith that was held at the University of British Columbia in November, 2007.

Essays can range from theoretical to practical, from aesthetic to political in their aims and methods, and interdisciplinary work is both welcome and encouraged. The editors are especially interested in provocative, informed writing that deals with improvisation in as unlimited a sense as possible. They want to include as wide a variety of material as possible, and would also welcome for consideration artist statements, commentaries, interviews, and related texts. Possible themes and areas of interest for critical essays may include, but are not limited to, any of the following topics.

- \* Queer Music
- \* Sexing the Ear of the Other
- \* Women in Contemporary Creative Music
- \* Body Languages: Fingering, Tonguing, Blowing
- \* Performance and Performativity
- \* The Poetics of Improvisation: Speaking in Music
- \* Musical Affect, the Textures of Feeling
- \* The Politics of Dissonance: Fractured Identities
- \* Improvising Masculinities
- \* The Instrument as Prosthesis
- \* Radical Subcultures: Revolting Noise
- \* The History of Sexuality in/and Contemporary Creative Music
- \* Transitive Genders: Playing with Our Selves
- \* The Erotics of Close Listening
- \* Bump and Grind: Rhythm and Corporealities
- \* Mixed Media, Cyborg Songs
- \* Extemporaneous Positions: Improvising Sexualities
- \* Auscultation and other Apparatuses of Audience
- \* Other than Music: Confronting Idioms of the Heteronormative

Essays of approximately 6000 words should conform to the journal's guidelines for style and format (see "About the Journal" at [www.criticalimprov.com](http://www.criticalimprov.com)).

The deadline for submissions is August 15, 2008.

## In Action

A monthly roundup of the activities of project participants, post-doctoral fellows, and students.

**Ichiro Fujinaga** will spend part of his sabbatical posting to his new blog, [ramenguide.blogspot.com](http://ramenguide.blogspot.com), a guide to ramen restaurants, mostly outside Japan, in English.

Project director **Ajay Heble** and the Guelph Jazz Festival and Colloquium, of which he is artistic director, received two prestigious award nominations. Dr. Heble was nominated as events producer of the year by the Jazz Journalists Association. The Festival was nominated in the arts organization category of the Ontario Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts. The Festival's 15th-anniversary program has been posted at [www.guelphjazzfestival.com](http://www.guelphjazzfestival.com).

**George E. Lewis** and **Pauline Oliveros** participated in Vision Festival XIII, held June 10-15 in New York City. Oliveros was a panelist for the discussion "Jazz Factions" that explored ways in which the New York musical community could build bridges and strengthen its presence in the city. Lewis performed with **Joelle Leandre**.

**George Lipsitz** has been named a fellow of the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity at Stanford University to research topics of race, ethnicity and culture. The theme of his project is "Colour Blindness and the Court". Lipsitz is a co-investigator with the Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice program and a professor in the Department of Black Studies and Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Ingrid Monson** is one of five professors in Harvard University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences to have been named a Walter Channing Cabot Fellow. The awards honor distinguished faculty members who have contributed to the advancement of scholarship in the fields of literature, history, or art. Dr. Monson, a research collaborator on the Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice project and Quincy Jones Professor of African-American Music at Harvard, received the fellowship for her book *Freedom Sounds: Civil Rights Call Out to Jazz and Africa* that shows that music and politics are inextricably linked.

**Alan Stanbridge** was a panelist for the discussion "Playing Between the Words", at the Ottawa Jazz Festival, on June 24.

With **Jessica Santone**, **Will Straw** is preparing a special issue of the journal *Convergences: The International Journal of Research into New Media*, on the theme of "Cultural Memory and Digital Preservation." In July 2008, he will give a keynote address at the annual Screen conference in Glasgow. In the Fall 2008 term, Dr. Straw will be acting director of Media@McGill, a research unit located in the Department of Art History and Communications Studies at McGill University.

**Ellen Waterman**, acting project director of Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice, is composer-in-residence at the Sound Travels Festival of Sound Art taking place on the Toronto Islands until October 1. She will work with a group of emerging artists, alumni from the University of Guelph, to create a

series of improvised performances incorporating the environment's spatial parameters . These will be performed on August 8, 9 and 10 . More details on the Festival are available at [www.naisa.ca/soundtravels/](http://www.naisa.ca/soundtravels/). As part of her residency, Dr. Waterman will perform works for improvised flutes and multi-channel electronics in the concert "A Multitude of Portraits" on August 9. She will also present the keynote address at the second Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium (August 7-9) [cec.concordia.ca/events/TES/](http://cec.concordia.ca/events/TES/), held in conjunction with Sound Travels.



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**Improvisation, Community and Social Practice | Improvisation, communauté, et pratiques sociales**

Room 042 MacKinnon Building, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, N1G 2W1

Tel: 519.824.4120 Ext. 53885 | Email: [improv@uoguelph.ca](mailto:improv@uoguelph.ca) | [www.improvcommunity.ca](http://www.improvcommunity.ca)