

Web Resources Related to Improvisation

Compiled by Karl Coulthard

Dance Improvisation

Body Research

<http://www.bodyresearch.org/>

Project combining performance work with body awareness, based on the art of Contact Improvisation. Located in Oakland, CA and directed by Karl Frost.

Hilary Bryan

<http://www.hilarybryan.com/>

Acclaimed performer and choreographer: teaches dance and theatre at the University of California Davis. Is certified in Laban Movement Analysis (LMA) and uses improvisation as a framework to expand expressive range.

Contact Improvisation

<http://www.contactimprov.com/>

Online world resource for a dance form based on spontaneous physical dialogue between two moving bodies, one initiated by American choreographer Steve Paxton in 1972.

Contact Quarterly

<http://www.contactquarterly.com/>

Biannual journal of contemporary dance, improvisation, and performance. Based in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Dance Art Group

<http://www.danceartgroup.org/>

Promotes and fosters the study of improvisational dance in Seattle. Produces the Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation (SFDI), a week-long, annual summer event. Also offers weekly classes and workshops in dance and movement.

Manipulation in Contact Improvisation

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrYB14yLIUU>

Video excerpt from Dieter Heitkamp's "School of Sensibility," showcasing contact improvisation. In German with English subtitles.

Educational Programs and Resources

Ali Akbar College of Music (AACM)

<http://www.aacm.org/>

Teaches, preserves, and performs the classical music of North India, specifically the Seni Baba Allaiddin Gharana tradition. Located in San Rafael, California. Website includes links to YouTube clips of instrumental, vocal, and tabla classes.

Center for Black Music Research

<http://www.colum.edu/cbmr/>

Founded at Columbia College in Chicago in 1983. The center is devoted to the research, preservation, and dissemination of information about black music on a global scale. They also host conferences and organize live educational and performance programming.

Center for Jazz Studies at Columbia University

<http://www.jazz.columbia.edu/>

Located in New York City, the center regards jazz as a music without borders and limits, as a model for the integration of scholarly thinking, innovative teaching, and community dialogue. It offers academic and performance courses at the undergraduate and graduate level. Faculty includes renowned jazz studies scholars [George E. Lewis](#) and Robert G. O'Meally. The center also administers the [Jazz Studies Online](#) collection of digital resources.

Deep Listening Institute

<http://www.deeplistening.org/site/>

Fosters a unique approach to music, art, and meditation based on the philosophy of Deep Listening, a practice of voluntary, selective, and deliberate listening in contrast to involuntary and passive hearing. Located in Kingston, NY. Directed and founded by composer [Pauline Oliveros](#).

Grant MacEwan University

<http://www.macewan.ca/web/pvca/music/home/index.cfm>

Located in Edmonton, Alberta. Music program offers a two-year diploma providing academic and performance training in jazz, rock, and pop. Faculty is comprised of many of the leading jazz musicians in Edmonton. This program is

also currently negotiating to offer a Bachelor's degree in Jazz and Contemporary Popular Music.

Herb Alpert School of Music

<http://music.calarts.edu/>

Located at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia. A performance program offering undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates. Emphasizes a global music perspective, promoting study and practice across cultural boundaries. Their Jazz Program was founded in 1982 by famous acoustic bassist [Charlie Haden](#), who remains on faculty.

Institute of Jazz Studies

http://newarkwww.rutgers.edu/IJS/jazz_scenes5ra.html

World's foremost jazz archive and research facility, founded in 1952 and now located at Rutgers University in Newark, NJ. Collection includes audio recordings, manuscripts, periodicals, oral histories, memorabilia, and musical instruments once played by famous jazz musicians.

Integrative Studies Program – University of California, San Diego

<http://music.ucsd.edu/grad/is.php>

Promotes an engagement with contemporary musical activity and discourse that integrates diverse methodologies, experiences, and learning styles. Specialties include critical studies, ethnomusicology, systems inquiry, and creative practice. Faculty include bassist [Mark Dresser](#), saxophonist [David Borgo](#), and pianist [Anthony Davis](#).

Mills College

<http://www.mills.edu/academics/graduate/mus/>

Located in Oakland, California, the college offers Masters degrees in composition, electronic music and recording media, and music performance and literature, and emphasizes a collaborative community of creativity and experimentation. Faculty includes guitarist [Fred Frith](#) and saxophonist [Roscoe Mitchell](#).

Music and Sound at the Banff Centre

<http://www.banffcentre.ca/music/jazz/>

Hosts the Jazz Workshop and Jazz Orchestra Workshop annually in May and June in Banff, Alberta. Program was founded in 1974. Jazz Workshop faculty have

included bassist [Dave Holland](#), saxophonist [Anthony Braxton](#), and pianists [Cecil Taylor](#) and Oscar Peterson.

National Museum of American History (NMAH) Archives Center

<http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/archives/ac-i.htm>

Located in Washington DC, the center includes an extensive [Duke Ellington Collection](#) plus other collections of jazz recordings, manuscripts, and ephemera. Their website provides a thorough description of the contents of their series, but to actually view the manuscripts and other materials, one must make an appointment to visit the archives in person.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

<http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html>

Branch of the New York Public Library. Contains a vast collection of manuscripts, books, print material, photographs, sound recordings, film, and artifacts about the history of black people in the United States.

Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz

<http://www.monkinstitute.org/>

Founded in Washington DC in 1986 by the family of the famous jazz composer and pianist. Hosts an annual International Jazz Competition in DC, a two-year Jazz Performance program at Loyola University in New Orleans, and a Jazz Sports program linking music and basketball through partnerships between inner-city high schools and NBA teams in Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Washington DC.

Wesleyan University Music Department

<http://www.wesleyan.edu/music/>

Located in Middletown, Connecticut. Provides a unique and pioneering environment for the advanced study of the breadth and diversity of the world's musics and technologies. Faculty includes famous composer and saxophonist [Anthony Braxton](#).

Film and Video

Between Science and Garbage

[http://thepiratebay.org/torrent/3362223/Between_Science_and_Garbage_\(2004-](http://thepiratebay.org/torrent/3362223/Between_Science_and_Garbage_(2004-)

[tzadik-xvid](#))

An “avantgardish/noise inspired improvisational concert/happening” produced in 2003 by filmmaker [Pierre Hébert](#) in collaboration with software creator [Bob Ostertag](#).

On the Edge

<http://www.ubu.com/film/bailey.html>

Full-length videos of Parts 1 and 3 of [Derek Bailey’s](#) four-part documentary on improvisation broadcast in the UK in 1992. Regarded as one of the most intelligent, indeed one of the only, analyses of improvised music-making to be broadcast on television. Videos provided by [UbuWeb](#).

Rising Tones Cross

<http://www.efi.group.shef.ac.uk/video/rising.html>

Filmed in New York in 1984 by German director Ebba Jahn. Hailed as a true documentation of Bohemia, this film features dozens of performances and includes voiceovers by saxophonist [Charles Gayle](#), and bassists [William Parker](#) and [Peter Kowald](#).

Sun Ra – A Joyful Noise

<http://www.vimeo.com/3164191>

Directed in 1980 by Robert Mugge. Features the titan of the jazz avant-garde performing some of his many famous chants and jingles, including “Astro Black” and “Calling Planet Earth.”

Three Parades

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bD4EVQi6L2o>

Nine-minute video collage of “outstallations” performed at the 2009 [Guelph Jazz Festival](#).

Touch the Sound

<http://www.skyline.uk.com/touchthesound/index.html>

Directed in 2004 by Thomas Reidelsheimer. Profiles deaf, Grammy-award-winning percussionist [Evelyn Glennie](#).

Improvised Music Collectives

AACM (Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians)

<http://aacmchicago.org/>

One of the seminal improvised music collectives in North America, founded in 1965 in the south side of Chicago. Their website includes a photo gallery and audio and video files of past performances. It also describes their free educational programs for inner city youth.

AIMCalgary (Association of Improvising Musicians)

<http://www.myspace.com/aimcalgary>

Located in Calgary, Alberta.

AIMToronto

<http://www.aimtoronto.org/>

<http://www.myspace.com/aimtoronto>

An organization that describes itself as an umbrella under which Toronto's disparate pockets of improvising musicians can be organized. Website includes a complete list of their membership with links to individual musicians' webpages. Also contains a list of ongoing local events.

Cambridge Free Improv Society

<http://cambridgeimprovisation.wordpress.com/>

<http://streamofexpression.blogspot.com/2008/03/cambridge-free-improvisation-society.html>

An informal collective of Cambridge University Students who gather to freely improvise. The collective is also open to non-university improvisers. Their main website includes links to recordings from past performances and jam sessions and news on upcoming gigs. Their blog includes an extensive list of links to websites relating to jazz and improvised music.

Contemporary Music Ensemble, University of Guelph

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/~ewaterma/cme.shtml>

A collective of students and community members who create music through a focus on collaboration, creativity, and sonic experimentation. Directed by ICASP executive member [Ellen Waterman](#).

Instant Composers Pool (ICP) Orchestra

<http://www.icporchestra.com/>

Non-profit collective of Dutch composers-improvisors-instrumentalists founded in 1967 in Amsterdam by pianist [Misha Mengelberg](#), drummer [Han Bennink](#), and composer/arranger [Willem Breuker](#).

KW Improvisers Collective

<http://www.myspace.com/kwicmusic>

Located in Kitchener/Waterloo, about an hour west of Toronto. Includes links to past performances.

London Improvisors Orchestra

<http://www.myspace.com/londonimprovisorsorchestra>

Rehearses and presents same-day performances on the first Sunday of the month at the Café Oto in Dalston.

Mochilla

<http://mochilla.com>

Artists' collective comprised primarily of B+ (aka Brian Cross) and Eric Coleman, based out of Los Angeles. Named after the Spanish word for backpack, a somewhat derogatory word for independent hip-hop, they do provocative work connecting the worlds of improvised music across the board—hiphop, jazz, etc.—and have produced several important documentaries.

Somewhere There

<http://www.somewherethere.org/>

A venue for creative music in the Parkdale district of Toronto. Programming features members of AIMToronto. Includes a calendar of events.

The 5 After 7 Project

http://www.saalikjazz.com/fr_index.cfm

<http://www.myspace.com/the5after7project>

Collaborative band led by vocalist and AACM member [Saalik Ziyad](#). Performs thought provoking music from jazz to classical. Websites include numerous YouTube videos of past performances.

Trummerflora Collective

<http://www.trummerflora.com>

Founded in 2000 in San Diego, California. Includes links to individual musicians' websites.

Upstream Music Association

<http://www.upstreammusic.org/>

A professional arts organization based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Describes itself as a "pan-genre orchestral" collective. Sponsors three orchestras and a house band, as well as community workshops and symposia.

Woodchoppers Association

<http://www.woodchoppers.com/>

<http://www.myspace.com/woodchoppers>

Based in Toronto – they describe themselves as "musical and artistic friends specializing in freestyle improvisation."

Indexes and Resources

The Big Band Sounds of London, Ontario

<http://www.londonbigbands.ca/index.htm>

Provides information about and links to the websites of community bands active in the area.

Cadence/North Country Audio

<http://www.cadencebuilding.com/>

Provides links to magazines, record labels, recording equipment, books, CDs, and discographies, all under the Cadence label.

Calgary Jazz

<http://calgaryjazz.com/>

Provides links to festivals and local organizations in Calgary, Alberta and includes a daily listing of events in the local jazz scene.

Canadian Jazz Festivals

<http://canadajazz.com/festivals.php>

Extensive listing of festivals across Canada with accompanying links.

Canadian Jazz Sites

<http://canadajazz.com/index.php>

A master reference list with links to smaller indexes of musicians, agents, chat forums, recordings, venues, etc.

DC Jazz

<http://dc.about.com/od/nightclubs/a/Jazz.htm>

Guide to jazz clubs and concerts in the Washington DC area.

Destination: OUT

<http://destination-out.com/>

A jazz blog focusing on rare or out-of-print music. Offers interactive artist contributions and includes links to the websites of participating artists and ensembles.

Drummerworld

<http://www.drummerworld.com/>

Founded and managed by Swiss percussionist Bernhard Castiglioni. Provides networking and educational opportunities for aspiring drummers. Includes videos, discussion forums, and an interactive drum clinic.

European Free Improvisation Pages

<http://www.efi.group.shef.ac.uk/>

Comprehensive information resource for all aspects of European free improvisation music. The information is updated every two months, most often directly from the musicians. Includes links both for musicians and ensembles and for recording labels.

International Jazz Festivals Organization

<http://www.ijfo.org/>

An umbrella organization providing links to 14 leading jazz festivals worldwide. The members are situated at times that allow for the touring of common projects.

Jazz Elements

<http://www.jazzelements.com/>

Music blog with news, reviews, concerts and more, with a Canadian focus. Maintained by [Cindy McLeod](#), Canadian vocalist, writer, publicist, and festival producer.

Jazz Festivals Canada

<http://www.jazzfestivalscanada.ca/>

Member driven, not-for-profit national arts service organization. Provides links to 18 major festivals.

Jazz Grrls

<http://www.jazzgrrls.com/>

Provides an extensive alphabetical list of websites of women in jazz. Created and maintained by Jeanette Lambert.

Jazz Street Vancouver

<http://www.jazzstreetvancouver.ca/>

Interactive website about the history of jazz in Vancouver. Includes links to video and audio recordings, photographs, newspaper and magazine articles, and compilations of oral histories. Administered by the [Coastal Jazz and Blues Society](#).

Jazz Studies Online

<http://jazzstudiesonline.org/>

Sponsored by the [Center for Jazz Studies at Columbia University](#) in New York City, this online resource features extensive collections of and links to journal articles, book chapters, magazines, teaching materials, video recordings, etc.

JazzWord

<http://www.jazzword.com/>

Weekly reviews of jazz albums and musicians written by Ken Waxman.

Los Angeles Jazz Collective

<http://lajazzcollective.com/index.html>

Founded in 2007, this collective works to generate greater public appreciation for improvised music through cooperative effort and education.

Restructures – Creative Music Forum

<http://www.restructures.net/index.html>

Provides complete discographies, plus essay and review indices, for saxophonists [Anthony Braxton](#) and [Mats Gustafsson](#), drummer [Hamid Drake](#), and trumpeter/trombonist [Clifford Thorton](#). Also includes an extensive “Link Library” of artists, essays, calendars, magazines, broadcasts, labels, and retailers.

Sounds Provocative

<http://www.experimentalperformance.ca/>

A research project aimed at documenting and studying experimental music performance across Canada. Includes an extensive list of websites for musicians performing experimental music in Canada, as well as links to other important aspects of the Canadian new music scene. Funded by SSHRC and the University of Guelph and organized by ICASP executive member [Ellen Waterman](#).

UbuWeb

<http://www.ubuweb.com/>

Independent resource dedicated to all strains of avant-garde art. Includes extensive archives of film and video, radio, MP3s, sound experiments, scholarly and non-scholarly papers, and ethnopoetics.

Vancouver Jazz

<http://vancouverjazz.com/index.html>

Described as “A compendious guide to jazz culture around Vancouver.” Includes an alphabetical listing of musicians and their websites, a listing of cd releases with hyperlinks, and a calendar of radio programs.

Wikipedia articles on free jazz and free improvisation

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_jazz

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_improvisation

Provide numerous links to related terms and concepts, musicians, instruments, and genres.

Journals and Magazines

Action, Criticism, and Theory for Music Education

<http://act.maydaygroup.org/>

Peer-reviewed journal that publishes critical, analytical, theoretical, and policy development articles. Managed by the Mayday Group, an international community of music education scholars and practitioners.

Cadence

<http://www.cadencebuilding.com/cadence/cadencemagazine.html#1>

Comprehensive resource of the world's jazz and improvised music scenes. Published monthly since 1976. Each issue contains about 300 editorially independent music reviews.

CODA

<http://www.coda1958.com/>

Billed as "Canada's Jazz Magazine," founded in Toronto in 1958. Covers all styles of jazz, with a particular focus on the individual interpretive and creative spirit. Published bi-monthly.

Critical Studies in Improvisation/ Études critiques en improvisation

<http://www.criticalimprov.com/public/csi/index.html>

Online journal operated by ICASP since 2004. Provides free access to peer-reviewed articles, book reviews, interviews, opinion pieces, and other scholarship about improvised music. Also showcases audio and video material and visual art.

Downbeat

<http://www.downbeat.com/>

Regarded by many as the foundational jazz magazine in the United States. Founded in 1934, Downbeat publishes a monthly periodical of music reviews, interviews, editorials, and criticism.

eContact

<http://cec.concordia.ca/econtact/index.htm>

Online journal of the Canadian Electroacoustic Community (CEC), supported by Concordia University in Montréal. Published four times a year. Provides free

access to articles, reviews, and interviews, often supported by audio and video files.

Errant Bodies

<http://www.errantbodies.org>

Started as a literary journal in 1995, this organization now publishes books and CDs on sound art, auditory issues, spatial arts and design, and cultures of experimental performance.

Front Magazine

<http://front.bc.ca/frontmagazine>

Journal of contemporary art and ideas. Publishes new work in performance-related and interdisciplinary practices. Published five times a year in Vancouver by [The Western Front](#).

Jazziz

<http://www.jazziz.com/>

Bills itself as “the final word on jazz.” Publishes quarterly in print and monthly online. Print editions come with two full-length CDs, called Jazziz on Disc, containing music featured in the magazine. Founded in 1984.

Leonardo Music Journal

<http://www.leonardo.info/lmj/>

Facilitates the powerful exchange of ideas and experimental projects between scientists, artists, and engineers. Published annually by The International Society for the Arts, Sciences, and Technology.

Music and Arts in Action

<http://musicandartsinaction.net/index.php/maia/index>

Explores the dynamic role of music and the arts in social life and cultural experience. Published biannually by the Department of Sociology and Philosophy at the University of Exeter in England.

Musicworks

<http://www.musicworks.ca/>

Magazine with accompanying CD, published three times a year. The CD features music performed by artists presented in the magazine. Committed to the creative

engagement with sound exploration, Musicworks features improvisers, instrument designers, and radio, sound installation, and sound sculpture artists.

Signal to Noise

<http://www.signaltonoisemagazine.org/>

Quarterly journal focusing on the confluence of avant-garde jazz, electro-acoustic improvisation, and left-of-center modern rock. Founded in 1997 in Vermont and now based in Houston, TX.

Revue Tracés, No. 18, May 2010

La revue de sciences humaines *Tracés* consacre ce numéro au thème de l'improvisation. Il y est évidemment beaucoup question de musique... Outre des entretiens avec le sociologue Howard Becker ou le philosophe Jerrold Levinson, ce numéro contient également une traduction inédite d'un texte important de Carl Dahlhaus, "Qu'est-ce que l'improvisation musicale?". Vous pouvez consulter le sommaire complet de ce copieux numéro à l'adresse: <http://traces.revues.org/>

Vague Terrain

<http://www.vagueterrain.net/>

Web-based digital arts publication that showcases the creative practice of artists, musicians, and scholars. It launched in 2005. Content includes curated audio, visual, and written works and an accompanying blog.

Wire

<http://www.thewire.co.uk/>

Independent monthly music magazine devoted to a wide range of alternative and underground musics. Founded in London, England in 1982.

Music Festivals

Atlantic Jazz Festival

<http://jazzeast.com/>

Held annually in mid-July in Halifax, Nova Scotia since 1987. The festival is organized by Jazz East Rising, a non-profit organization that also sponsors a two-week Creative Music Workshop every October/November.

Beaches International Jazz Festival

<http://www.beachesjazz.com/>

Held annually in late July in Toronto on the shores of Lake Ontario. Founded in 1989. The festival features community and youth initiatives, including free workshops and clinics for music students and young jazz professionals.

Boise Festival of Creative and Improvised Music

<http://b-cimf.com/>

Started in 2006, this festival runs annually in late April in Boise, Idaho and is directed by guitarist and avant-garde looping artist [Krispen Hartung](#).

Calgary Jazz Festival

<http://www.calgaryjazz.com/2007/Festival/cjazzfestival.htm>

Runs annually during the last week in June in Calgary, Alberta. Recently celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Edmonton International Jazz Festival

<http://www.edmontonjazz.com/cms/>

Held annually in late June and early July in Edmonton, Alberta. Features an eclectic mix of jazz, blues, and world music by local and international artists. Despite a change in management in 2005, this event has been continuously running since 1980, making it one of the oldest internationally recognized jazz festivals in Canada.

Festival International de Jazz de Montréal

<http://www.montrealjazzfest.com/default-en.aspx>

Founded in 1980, it is now the largest jazz festival in the world, occupying large sections of downtown Montréal for eleven days in early July every year.

Highlights a wide variety of musical genres in addition to jazz, including blues, Brazilian, Cuban, African, reggae, and electronica.

Festival International de Musique Actuelle de Victoriaville (FIMAV)

<http://www.fimav.qc.ca/>

Founded in 1983, FIMAV is a creative, avant-garde festival of improvised music held annually, usually in late May, in Victoriaville, Quebec.

Guelph Jazz Festival and Colloquium

<http://www.guelphjazzfestival.com/>

One of the major avant-garde, improvised music festivals in North America. Held annually the week of Labour Day in Guelph, Ontario. It is also one of the only jazz festivals to host an academic colloquium. It was founded in 1994 and continues to be organized by ICASP project director Ajay Heble.

International Istanbul Jazz Festival

<http://www.iksv.org/caz/english/program.asp>

Held annually in July in Turkey since 1994. In keeping with its setting, this festival emphasizes challenging boundaries, including those of concert venues and those between artist and audience.

Jazz Fest Wien

<http://www.viennajazz.org>

Held annually in late June and early July in Vienna since 1991. Bills itself as one of the three most important jazz festivals in the world. Concerts are set amidst the city's famous architecture, including the Vienna State Opera and the Hundertwasser Fernwärme Anlage, a power station transformed into an open-air concert venue by the famous Vienna artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser.

Jazz Winnipeg Festival

<http://www.jazzwinnipeg.com/>

Held annually in late June and early July in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Jazz Winnipeg also operates a year-round concert program in addition to the festival.

Kathmandu Jazz Festival (Jazzmandu)

<http://www.kathmandujazzfestival.com/>

Held annually in Kathmandu, Nepal since 2002. Organized in part by percussionist and vocalist [Navin Chettri](#).

London Jazz Festival

<http://www.londonjazzfestival.org.uk/>

Held annually in November in London, England since 1992. Previously encompassed as part of the Camden Festival during the 1970s and 1980s.

Monterey Jazz Festival, CA

<http://www.montereyjazzfestival.org/>

The world's longest running jazz festival, held every September on the Monterey Fairgrounds since 1958. Also sponsors year-round jazz education programs, showcased in their annual Next Generation Festival.

Montreux Jazz Festival

<http://www.montreuxjazz.com/>

Two-week festival held annually in July in Switzerland since 1967. Regarded as one of the premier jazz events in Europe.

Music Symposium

<http://www.soundsymposium.com/>

An international celebration of sound noted for its innovative and intriguing programming, particularly in terms of performance spaces. Takes place in the summer on even-numbered years in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Newport Jazz Festival

<http://www.jazzfestival55.com/>

Held annually in Newport, Rhode Island since 1954. Currently listed as George Wein's Jazz Festival 55, after the man who has organized the festival since its inception. Venue for the famous 1956 performance of "Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue" by the [Duke Ellington](#) orchestra.

No Idea Festival

<http://www.noideafestival.com/home.shtml>

Founded in 2003 and based in Austin, Texas. In 2009, the festival expanded to include five cities: Austin, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Houston, and New Orleans. Directed by percussionist [Chris Cogburn](#).

North Sea Jazz Festival

<http://www.northseajazz.com/>

Three-day festival held annually in July in the Netherlands since 1976. Has taken place in Rotterdam since 2006.

L'Off Festival de Jazz de Montréal

<http://www.lofffestivaldejazz.com/en/index.html>

Held annually in late June since 1999. Celebrates the creative music and poetry of jazz in Montréal.

Open Ears Festival of Music and Sound

<http://www.openears.ca/>

An innovative event that celebrates the act of listening through guided soundwalks, indoor and outdoor electroacoustic performances, sound installations, sound poetry, etc. Held in the spring on odd-numbered years in Kitchener, ON.

Pori Jazz Festival

<http://www.porijazz.fi/>

Held annually in July in Finland since 1966. Includes the Pori Jazz Kids Festival, which features workshops and concerts.

Saskatchewan Jazz Festival

<http://saskjazz.com/>

Held annually in late June and early July in Saskatoon since 1986.

Stratford Summer Music

<http://www.stratfordsummermusic.ca/>

Billed as “Stratford’s *other* Festival,” this event runs from late July to mid August in Stratford, Ontario and features an eclectic mix of classical, jazz, folk, and world music. Founded in 2001.

Suoni Per Il Popolo (Sounds for the People)

<http://www.casadelpopolo.com/suoniperilpopolo/>

Community based festival taking place annually in June in Montréal. Emphasizes music that resonates with progressive social movements.

Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival

http://www.tojazz.com/Pages/Toronto_Downtown_Jazz_Festival_pgM243.asp

One of Canada’s largest jazz festivals, held annually in late June and early July since 1987. Regular performers include legendary saxophonist [Sonny Rollins](#) and pianist/composer [Dave Brubeck](#).

Umbria Jazz

<http://www.umbriajazz.com/>

Held annually in July in Perugia, Italy since 1973.

Uptown Waterloo Jazz Festival

<http://www.uptownwaterloojazz.ca/>

Free three-day event run annually in July in Waterloo, Ontario since 1993.

Vancouver International Jazz Festival

http://www.coastaljazz.ca/td_canada_trust_vancouver_international_jazz_festival

Held annually in late June and early July since 1986. Includes 150 free concerts out of a 400-concert lineup.

Victoria Jazzfest International

<http://jazzvictoria.ca/>

Held annually in late June and early July in Victoria, British Columbia since 1985. Organized by the Victoria Jazz Society.

Wangaretta Jazz Festival

<http://www.wangaratta-jazz.org.au/>

Held annually late October or early November in Wangaretta, Victoria since 1990. Emphasizes modern and contemporary jazz and is regarded by many as Australia's premier jazz festival.

Musicians and Ensembles

Muhai Richard Abrams

<http://aacmchicago.org/muhai-richard-abrams>

World renowned pianist, composer, and educator, based in New York City. Co-founder and first president of the [AACM](#).

Toshiko Akiyoshi

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toshiko_Akiyoshi

Japanese pianist, composer/arranger, and bandleader. Noteworthy for adapting

Japanese themes, harmonies, and instruments to big band jazz.

Fred Anderson

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Anderson_\(musician\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Anderson_(musician))

Tenor saxophonist based in Chicago. Founding member of the [AACM](#) and owner of the jazz club the [Velvet Lounge](#).

Art Ensemble of Chicago

<http://www.artensembleofchicago.com/>

Avant-garde jazz ensemble that grew out of the [AACM](#) in Chicago in 1966. Emphasizes multi-instrumentalism and the visual spectacle of performance.

austraLYSIS

<http://www.australysis.com/>

Contemporary music group based in Sydney, Australia. Committed to creating, performing, and publishing new sound and intermedia arts. Founded and directed by ICASP researcher Roger Dean.

Ab Baars

<http://www.stichtingwig.com/abBaars/AbBaars.html>

Dutch tenor saxophonist, clarinetist, composer, and bandleader. Also plays the skahuhachi, a Japanese end-blown flute. Affiliated with the [ICP Orchestra](#).

Derek Bailey

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derek_Bailey

English avant-garde guitarist and leading scholar on music improvisation. Wrote the seminal book, *Improvisation: Its Nature and Practice*, later adapted into the four-part television series [On the Edge](#).

Count Basie Orchestra

<http://www.countbasie.com/>

Carries on the Kansas City swing of Count Basie, famous jazz pianist and bandleader active from 1924-1984. Orchestra still includes many musicians who played under Basie.

Han Bennink

<http://www.hanbennink.com/>

Dutch drummer and percussionist, regarded as a pivotal figure in the early European free jazz and free improvisation scenes. Co-founded the [Instant Composers Pool](#) in 1967.

Carla Bley

<http://www.wattxtrawatt.com/>

Pianist, composer, and band leader, regarded as a prominent figure in the Free Jazz movement of the 1960s. Website is devoted to her record company, comprised of two labels, WATT and XtraWATT.

Paul Bley

<http://www.improvart.com/bley/bley.htm>

Pianist active since the 1950s. Initially affiliated with [Charles Mingus](#) and Art Blakey. Gave the first live performance on synthesizer at Philharmonic Hall in New York City in 1969.

David Borgo

http://musicweb.ucsd.edu/~dborgo/David_Borgo/Home.html

Saxophonist and ethnomusicologist. Author of *Sync or Swarm: Improvising Music in a Complex Age*. Currently associate professor of music at the University of California, San Diego. See [Integrative Studies Program](#).

Georgina Born

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminist_Improvising_Group

<http://www.sociology.cam.ac.uk/contacts/staff/profiles/gborn.html>

British cellist, pianist, anthropologist, and ICASP researcher. Co-founder of the [Feminist Improvising Group](#) in 1977. Currently Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Music at Cambridge.

Lester Bowie

<http://www.artensembleofchicago.com/lester.html>

Trumpet player, composer, and co-founder of the Art Ensemble of Chicago. His music was often influenced by ska and reggae and he was known for the humour of his performance style.

Anthony Braxton

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Braxton

<http://www.myspace.com/anthonybraxtonpage>

Composer, saxophonist, and philosopher regarded as one of the seminal figures in improvised music since the late 1960s. One of the most famous members of the [AACM](#) (Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians) in Chicago. Currently professor of music at [Wesleyan University](#) in Middletown, Connecticut.

Willem Breuker Kollektief

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~wbk/>

Formed in 1974 by Dutch saxophonist, bass clarinetist, composer/arranger, and bandleader Willem Breuker. Breuker also co-founded the [Instant Composers Pool](#) in 1967. The orchestra combines jazz and “serious” music with popular genres from marching bands to circus music.

Dave Brubeck

<http://www.davebrubeck.com/live/>

One of the few living legends in jazz, pianist Brubeck continues to actively compose and perform at the age of 89. Over a 60+ year career, Brubeck has been best remembered for his innovations with time-signatures and for bringing jazz onto college and university campuses.

Jane Bunnett

<http://www.janebunnett.com/>

Soprano saxophonist, flutist, composer, and bandleader based in Toronto. Best known for her exploration of Afro-Cuban melodies.

Taylor Ho Bynum

<http://www.taylorhobynum.com/>

Cornetist, composer, and bandleader based in New York City. Also involved in collaborative projects with artists in dance, film, and theatre.

Canadian Electronic Ensemble (CEE)

http://www3.sympatico.ca/larry_lake/cee.htm

The oldest continuous live-electronic group in the world, founded in 1971. Operates an electronic music studio in Toronto, open to composers for the development of new electroacoustic works.

Ron Carter

<http://www.roncarter.net/officialSite.html>

Jazz bassist and cellist, best known as part of the famous 1960s [Miles Davis Quintet](#).

Isaiah Ceccarelli

<http://www.isaiahceccarelli.com/>

Drummer and composer based in Montréal. Leads an ensemble called *Lieux-dits*.

Charity Chan

<http://www.charitychan.com/Home.html>

Pianist and musicologist engaged in doctoral research at Princeton.

Navin Chettri

<http://www.myspace.com/navincadenzacollective>

Percussionist, vocalist, and music educator in Nepal. One of the directors of the [Kathmandu Jazz Festival](#).

Chris Cogburn

<http://www.rasbliutto.net/artists/chriscoogburn.html>

<http://www.myspace.com/chriscoogburnchriscoogburn>

Percussionist based in Austin, Texas. Director of the [No Idea Festival](#).

Ornette Coleman

<http://www.ornettecoleman.com/>

Legendary jazz saxophonist still active at the age of 79. Credited with creating a style known as “free jazz,” music freed from the conventions of harmony, rhythm, and melody, beginning in 1958 with his debut album *Something Else*.

John Coltrane

<http://www.johncoltrane.com/>

American saxophonist regarded as one of the most innovative jazz musicians of the 20th century. Active from 1946-1967. Particularly renowned for the spiritualism of his music, as evidenced on his most famous album, *A Love Supreme* (1964). Official website is sponsored by the John and Alice Coltrane

Foundation, which provides scholarships to promising young jazz musicians.

Lindsay Cooper

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindsay_Cooper

English composer and bassoon and oboe player. Co-founder of the [Feminist Improvising Group](#) in 1977. Famous for her 1987 composition *Oh Moscow*, a song cycle dealing with issues facing a Europe divided by the Cold War.

Chick Corea

<http://www.chickcorea.com/>

Legendary jazz pianist. Best known for his 1970s group Return to Forever, where he performed groundbreaking work on the electric keyboard, deepening and expanding the sound of jazz fusion.

Anthony Davis

[http://www.schirmer.com/default.aspx?
TabId=2419&State_2872=2&ComposerId_2872=330](http://www.schirmer.com/default.aspx?TabId=2419&State_2872=2&ComposerId_2872=330)

Operatic composer, pianist, and leader of the improvisational music ensemble Episteme. Currently a professor of music at the University of California, San Diego. See [Integrative Studies Program](#).

Miles Davis

<http://www.milesdavis.com/>

Famous American jazz trumpet player, active from 1944-1991. Credited with inaugurating three major movements in jazz: “cool jazz” with his 1949 album *Birth of the Cool*, “modal jazz” with *Kind of Blue* (1959), and “jazz fusion” with *Bitches Brew* (1969).

Alain Derbez

<http://alainderbez.com/>

Saxophonist, accordionist, television/radio producer, writer, and journalist from Mexico City. Has written a book about the history of jazz in Mexico. Site mostly Spanish only.

Jean Derome

http://www.actuellecd.com/en/bio/derome_je/

Quebec saxophonist, flutist, and composer. Co-founder of the [Ambiances](#)

[Magnétiques](#) record label and musical director of [Fanfare Pourpour](#).

Bill Dixon

<http://www.bill-dixon.com/>

Avant-garde trumpeter, pianist, composer, visual artist, and educator. Known for using electronic delay and reverberation in performance.

Eric Dolphy

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Dolphy

Regarded as one of the first important jazz soloists on the bass clarinet and flute. Active from 1949-1964. Known for his use of wide intervals when improvising and for his reproduction of human and animal sounds on his instruments.

Hamid Drake

http://www.drummerworld.com/drummers/Hamid_Drake.html

Drummer and percussionist based in Chicago. Known for his improvisational experiments with world musics and percussion instruments.

Mark Dresser

<http://mark-dresser.com/>

Composer and contrabassist. Played in the quartet of composer/saxophonist [Anthony Braxton](#) for nine years beginning in 1986. Currently a professor of music at the University of California, San Diego. See [Integrative Studies Program](#).

Duke Ellington

One of the greatest American composers and bandleaders of the 20th century. Active from 1923-1974. Hits include “Mood Indigo,” “Take the A Train,” and “It Don’t Mean A Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing).”

<http://www.dukeellington.com/>

Official Ellington website, administered by Moda Entertainment in cooperation with the Ellington estate. Includes extensive discographies, filmographies, and photo galleries, as well as tour schedules and booking information for the current incarnation of the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

Lisle Ellis

<http://www.lisleellis.com/>

Bassist, composer, and visual artist based in New York City. Interested in the

application of electronic music in improvisational contexts.

Fanfare Pourpour

<http://www.fanfarepourpour.com/>

Quebec ensemble that performs improvised compositions featuring instruments such as accordion, cymbals, violin, and darbouka (a Middle-Eastern goblet drum). Known for their carnivalesque performances. French site only.

Feminist Improvising Group

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminist_Improvising_Group

English free improvising avant-garde jazz and avant-rock ensemble formed in London in 1977. Challenged the male-dominated music improvisation scene in Europe. Renamed the European Women's Improvising Group in 1983.

Lori Freedman

<http://www.lorifreedman.com/en/>

Clarinetist and composer based in Montréal. Teaches contemporary and improvised music at McGill University.

Fred Frith

<http://www.fredfrith.com/>

Guitarist, composer, and multi-instrumentalist. Currently professor of composition at [Mills College](#) in Oakland, California.

Charles Gayle

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Gayle

Free jazz saxophonist, pianist, bass clarinetist, and percussionist. Reportedly homeless in New York City for twenty years before being recorded in 1988, his music is heavily influenced by Christian spirituality.

Dizzy Gillespie

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dizzy_Gillespie

Trumpet player, composer, and bandleader. Key figure, along with [Charlie Parker](#), in the development of bebop and modern jazz. Famous for his on-stage persona, playing a bent horn with pouted cheeks.

Evelyn Glennie

http://www.evelyn.co.uk/Evelyn_old/index.htm

British solo percussionist, composer, and bagpipe player (who happens to be profoundly deaf). Also works as a motivational speaker and produces a line of jewelry.

Malcolm Goldstein

<http://www.philmultic.com/artists/goldstein/>

Violinist and composer based in Montréal. Specializes in avant-garde music and free improvisation.

Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band

<http://www.gordongoodwin.com/>

Takes the big band tradition into the new millennium with contemporary, original compositions mixing swing, Latin, blues, classical, and rock. Based in Los Angeles.

Mats Gustafsson

<http://matsgus.com/>

Saxophonist and composer from northern Sweden. Leading figure in the Scandinavian free jazz scene. Also produces international music festivals and concert tours.

Charlie Haden

<http://www.charliehadenmusic.com/>

Regarded as one of the greatest acoustic bassists in the world. Founded the Liberation Music Orchestra in 1969. Established the Jazz Program (now part of the [Herb Alpert School of Music](#)) at the California School of the Arts in Valencia in 1982, where he remains on faculty.

Mary Halvorson

<http://www.maryhalvorson.com/>

Guitarist and composer based in New York City. Leads her own trio and quintet, and the avant-rock band, People.

Herbie Hancock

<http://www.herbiehancock.com/>

Famous American pianist and composer. Best known for his mixing of jazz with funk and soul and for his 1970s band The Headhunters.

Hard Rubber Orchestra

<http://www.hardrubber.com/>

Formed by composer and trumpeter [John Korsrud](#) in Vancouver in 1990. Influenced by jazz, pop, and world music, they have also created avant-garde ice shows, operas, and other multi-media events.

Krispen Hartung

www.krispenhartung.com

Improvisational and avant-garde looping artist and guitarist based in Boise, Idaho. Director of the [Boise Festival of Creative and Improvised Music](#).

Pierre Hébert

<http://www.pierrehebert.com/>

Performer and filmmaker from Montréal. In the 1980s, he pioneered a new style of performance involving live animation scratched on a rolling film loop, based on patterns from improvised music and dance.

Ig Henneman

<http://www.stichtingwig.com/igHenneman/igHenneman.html>

Dutch violist, composer, and bandleader. Performs with [Lori Freedman](#) and [Marilyn Lerner](#) in the Queen Mab Trio.

Joane Héту

http://www.actuellecd.com/en/bio/hetu_jo/

Alto-saxophonist, vocalist, and performer based in Montréal. Known for her early feminist, avant-garde rock music and for more recent improvisational experiments with voice, text, and texture.

Dave Holland

<http://www.daveholland.com/>

Bassist active since the late 1950s. Played with trumpeter [Miles Davis](#) on *Bitches Brew*. Now leads his own quintet and big band.

Nathan Hubbard

<http://www.castorandpolluxmusic.com/nmhubbard/>

Percussionist, composer, and instrument builder based in San Diego. Hubbard leads the 26-member Skeleton Key Orchestra and is a member of the [Trummerflora Collective](#).

Charlotte Hug

<http://www.charlottehug.ch/>

Violist, vocalist, composer, and visual artist based in Zurich, Switzerland. Known for creating a distinct tonal language by combining the sounds of viola and voice and for experimenting with graphic musical notation through sound drawings or “Son-Icons.”

Ken Hyder

<http://www.hyder.demon.co.uk/>

Scottish drummer based in Dundee. Plays jazz and Celtic music and has also studied the shamanic drumming of Tuva, a Russian province on the border with Mongolia.

Susie Ibarra

<http://www.susieibarra.com/>

Percussionist, composer, and ethnomusicologist based in New York City. Her music emphasizes cultural dialogue and she works to preserve indigenous culture and ecology.

Vijay Iyer

<http://www.vijay-iyer.com/about.html>

Indian American pianist and composer. Voted #1 Rising Star Jazz Artist and #1 Rising Star Composer in the [Downbeat](#) Magazine International Critics’ Poll in both 2006 and 2007.

Joseph Jarman

<http://www.artensembleofchicago.com/don.html>

Saxophonist, percussionist, composer, and Buddhist priest associated with the [AACM](#) and the Art Ensemble of Chicago. In 1967, became one of the first saxophonists to perform solo.

Leroy Jenkins

<http://aacmchicago.org/leroy-jenkins>

Chicago violinist, violist, and composer. Member of the [AACM](#).

Christine Jensen

<http://www.christinejensenmusic.com/>

Montreal based saxophonist and composer. Originally from Nanaimo, British Columbia. Regularly collaborates with her sister Ingrid.

Ingrid Jensen

<http://www.ingridjensen.com/>

Juno Award winning trumpet player from Nanaimo, British Columbia. Now based in New York City.

Sheila Jordan

<http://www.sheilajordanjazz.com/>

Jazz vocalist still active at the age of 81. Heavily influenced by Charlie Parker, she pioneered an instrumental bebop style of singing in the 1950s. Regarded as one of the most consistently creative jazz singers.

Jeff Kaiser

<http://jeffkaiser.com/>

Trumpet player, composer, conductor, and music technologist living La Jolla, California. Founder of [pfMentum Records](#) and [Angry Vegan Records](#).

John Korsrud

<http://www.johnkorsrud.com/>

Trumpeter, composer, and bandleader based in Vancouver. Leader of the [Hard Rubber Orchestra](#).

Peter Kowald

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Kowald

Free jazz bassist from Germany. Led the international improvising ensemble Global Village.

Steve Lacy

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Lacy

Avant-garde composer and soprano saxophonist, active from the 1950s to 2004. Regarded as a prominent figure in the American and European free improvisation scenes.

Joëlle Léandre

<http://www.joelle-leandre.com/>

Internationally renowned French bassist, improviser, and composer. In addition to contemporary music, she has written extensively for dance and theatre, producing multidisciplinary performances.

Marilyn Lerner

<http://www.marilynlerner.com/>

Pianist and composer based in Montréal. Known for her improvisational work with klezmer and other forms of Eastern European Jewish music.

George Lewis

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Lewis_\(trombonist\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Lewis_(trombonist))

<http://music.columbia.edu/people/bios/user/glewis>

Trombonist, composer, jazz scholar, and ICASP researcher. Professor of American Music at [The Center for Jazz Studies at Columbia University](#) in New York City. Creates and performs with interactive computer systems, including his own program, [Voyager](#).

Charles Lloyd

<http://www.charleslloyd.com/>

Saxophonist and composer active since the late 1950s. Significant for his experiments with acoustic performance and for compositions anticipating the World Music movement.

Scott R. Looney

<http://www.scottrlooney.com/>

Hyperpianist and electronic artist based in San Francisco.

René Lussier

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/René_Lussier

Quebec composer and guitarist, notable for his work mixing live music with taped recordings. Co-founder of the record label [Ambiances Magnétiques](#).

Malachi Favors Maghostut

<http://www.artensembleofchicago.com/malachi.html>

Bassist with the Art Ensemble of Chicago and founding member of the [AACM](#).

Rob Mazurek

<http://www.robmazurek.com/>

Cornetist, composer, multi-media artist, and sound/vision abstractivist based in Chicago and Sao Paulo, Brazil. Leads the Exploding Star Orchestra, the Chicago Underground, and the Sao Paulo Underground.

John McLaughlin

<http://www.johnmclaughlin.com/>

English jazz fusion guitarist. Played with [Miles Davis](#) on *In a Silent Way* and *Bitches Brew*. Also know for delving into Indian and Flamenco music.

Cindy Mcleod

<http://www.cindymcleod.com/>

Canadian jazz vocalist and writer based in Calgary, Alberta. Manages the website Jazz Elements. She is also the producer of the Calgary International Blues and Calgary Midwinter Blues Festivals.

Myra Melford

<http://www.myramelford.com/>

Pianist, composer, and sonic explorer. Also studies North Indian music on the harmonium. Currently on the music faculty at the University of California Berkeley.

Misha Mengelberg

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misha_Mengelberg

Dutch pianist and composer. Co-founded the [Instant Composers Pool](#) in 1967.

Charles Mingus

<http://www.mingusmingusmingus.com/>

American jazz composer, bandleader, bassist, and pianist – active from 1943-1979. Famous for his focus on collective improvisation and his compositions for mid-size ensembles. Official website includes information on four different contemporary Mingus bands.

Nicole Mitchell

<http://www.nicolemitchell.com/>

Flutist, bandleader, composer, and educator. Current president of the [Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians](#) in Chicago. Also directs the Black Earth Ensemble, a multi-genre, multi-generational celebration of African American culture.

Roscoe Mitchell

<http://www.artensembleofchicago.com/roscoe.html>

Avant-garde saxophonist, composer, multi-instrumentalist, and jazz educator. Founding member of the [AACM](#) and the Art Ensemble of Chicago.

Thelonious Monk

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thelonious_Monk

Seminal jazz composer and pianist from the 20th century. Penned famous standards such as “Round Midnight” and “Straight, No Chaser.” Active from 1941-1982. Known for his use of dissonant harmonies, melodic twists, and abrupt silences.

Famoudou Don Moye

<http://www.artensembleofchicago.com/don.html>

Percussionist with the Art Ensemble of Chicago. Known for his mastery of African and Caribbean percussion instruments and rhythmic techniques.

Diane Nalini

<http://www.dianenalini.com/>

Jazz vocalist based in Guelph, Ontario. Is also on faculty as a Physics professor at the University of Guelph. Her most recent CD, *Songs of Sweet Fire*, is a collection of songs from Shakespeare’s plays set to music.

Sainkho Namtchylak

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sainkho_Namtchylak

Vocalist from Tuva, an autonomous Russian republic north of Mongolia. Specializes in Tuvan throat singing, or Khöömei, while also encompassing avant-garde jazz and electronica.

Maggie Nicols

<http://www.maggienicols.com/>

Scottish vocalist, composer, dancer, and educator. Co-founder of the [Feminist Improvising Group](#) in 1977.

NOW Orchestra

<http://www.noworchestra.com/>

15-piece improvising ensemble formed in Vancouver in 1987. Emphasizes the oral tradition of improvised music and collaborates with other artistic traditions such as dance, visual art, and spoken word. Conducts free community workshops and school outreach programs.

Pauline Oliveros

<http://paulineoliveros.us/>

Pioneering composer, performer, humanitarian, and ICASP researcher. Explores improvisation, electronic music, meditation, and pedagogy through her philosophy of Deep Listening. Directs the [Deep Listening Institute](#) in Kingston, NY and is Distinguished Research Professor of Music at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

Bob Ostertag

<http://www.bobostertag.com>

Experimental audio artist based in San Francisco. Writes/composes audio performance software and scores multi-media performance pieces.

Lisa Otey

<http://www.owlstnestmusic.com/lisaotey/>

Blues/jazz vocalist, pianist, and composer from Tuscon, Arizona. She brings a delightful creativity and humour to her music. Of note, one of her albums, *Boogie Woogie Baby*, displays some intriguing queering of the lyrics to several blues standards.

Tony Oxley

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Oxley

English free jazz drummer. Co-founder of [Incus Records](#).

Charlie Parker

<http://www.cmgww.com/music/parker/>

Iconic alto-saxophonist, regarded as one of the greatest jazz soloists of the 20th century. Active from 1935-1955. Key figure, along with [Dizzy Gillespie](#), in the development of bebop and modern jazz. Often known by the nickname “Yardbird,” or simply “Bird.”

Evan Parker

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evan_Parker

British saxophonist, pivotal figure in the development of European free jazz and free improvisation. Notable for his unaccompanied solo performances.

William Parker

<http://www.williamparker.net/>

Bassist, bandleader, poet, and composer based in New York. He is a leading figure in the field of improvised music and has composed operas, film scores, and soliloquies for solo instruments.

P. J. Perry

<http://www.pjperry.com/>

One of North America’s premier bop saxophonists. Based in Edmonton, Alberta. Is currently performing his own show, “The Joy of Sax,” with orchestras across the country.

Eddie Prevost

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie_Prévost

English drummer and percussionist. Founded the free improvisation group AMM in London in 1965, a group focused on producing music without any kind of prepared external discipline.

Sun Ra Arkestra

<http://www.elrarecords.com/>

Founded and led by pianist, composer and bandleader Sun Ra from the mid-1950s until his death in 1993. Ra was the first jazz musician to perform on electric keyboard and is renowned for his work with collective improvisation and the cosmic spirituality of his music.

Dana Reason

<http://www.danareason.com/>

Pianist, composer, and educator. Currently teaching for the Department of Music at Oregon State University. Founder and director of *Between the Cracks: A Forum for Music, Arts, Science and Ideas*, a cross-disciplinary initiative of critical and cultural exchange.

Larry Ridley

<http://www.larryridley.com/>

Jazz bassist and music educator. Currently the Jazz Artist in Residence at the [Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture](#).

Jason Robinson

<http://www.jasonrobinson.com/>

Saxophonist and scholar based in San Diego. Robinson engages with the relationship between experimentalism and cultural/social identity through his performance and academic work. He is a member of the [Trummerflora Collective](#).

Sonny Rollins

<http://www.sonnyrollins.com/>

Legendary tenor saxophonist still active at the age of 78. Rollins first rose to prominence in the early 1950s and is most famous for his encyclopedic thematic improvisation and his unaccompanied solo performances.

Frank Rosaly

<http://www.frankrosaly.blogspot.com/>

Drummer and composer based in Chicago. He is actively involved in the local improvised and experimental music community, coordinating the [Ratchet Series](#), a weekly showcase of creative music at the Skylark.

Roswell Rudd

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roswell_Rudd

Avant-garde trombonist and composer. Has a particular interest in music from the African nation of Mali.

Irène Schweizer

<http://www.efi.group.shef.ac.uk/mschweiz.html>

Swiss pianist and drummer. Performs with [Joëlle Léandre](#) and [Maggie Nicols](#) in the trio Les Diaboliques.

Archie Shepp

<http://www.archieshepp.net/>

Saxophonist, pianist, composer, poet, and playwright, known for his social activism in African American affairs. Also taught ethnomusicology at the University of Amherst, MA.

Wayne Shorter

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne_Shorter

Jazz saxophonist and composer still active at the age of 76. Member of the [Miles Davis](#) Quintet in the 1960s and co-leader, with [Joe Zawinul](#), of the 1970s jazz fusion group Weather Report.

Shuffle Demons

<http://www.shuffledemons.com/>

Famous Canadian street band formed in Toronto in 1984. Popular for their exotic dress and comic performances.

Wadada Leo Smith

<http://music.calarts.edu/~wls/>

Trumpeter, composer, and educator. Developed his own systemic music language: *Ankhrasmation*. Directs the African American Improvisational Music program at the [Herb Alpert School of Music](#).

Jesse Stewart

<http://www.jessestewart.ca/>

Drummer, composer, visual artist, and ICASP researcher. Currently on faculty with the School for Studies in Art and Culture at Carleton University in Ottawa.

SWARM

<http://www.swarmweb.com/>

Vancouver based percussion theatre group. Presents a mesmerizing contemporary collage of music, choreography, and invented instruments.

Tanya Tagaq

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tagaq>

<http://www.myspace.com/tagaq>

Inuit throat singer from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. Specializes in a solo form of a music traditionally performed by two women.

Cecil Taylor

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cecil_Taylor

Pianist and poet still active at the age of 80. Hailed as one of the pioneers of free jazz and known for his percussive style involving tone clusters and intricate polyrhythms.

Clark Terry

<http://www.clarkterry.com/>

Grandfather of jazz trumpet still active at the age of 89. Best known, over a 60+ year career, as a pioneer with the flugelhorn and for his work as a sideman with [Count Basie](#) and [Duke Ellington](#) in the 1940s and 1950s.

Clifford Thorton

<http://www.allmusic.com/cg/amg.dll?p=amg&sql=11:hifxqy5ldse~T0>

Free jazz trumpet/trombone player, composer, and bandleader, active during the 1960s through the 1980s. Known for his radical political views regarding the treatment of African Americans in the US.

Ellen Waterman

<http://www.ellenwaterman.ca/>

Flutist, vocalist, cultural theorist, musicologist, and ICASP executive member. On faculty with the School of Fine Arts and Music at the University of Guelph. Directs the [Contemporary Music Ensemble](#).

Kenny Wheeler

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenny_Wheeler

Trumpet and flugelhorn player and composer based in the United Kingdom. Prominent figure in the London jazz and free improvisation scenes since the 1950s.

Tony Williams

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Williams

Jazz drummer who came to prominence in the 1960s as a member of the [Miles Davis](#) Quintet. Noted for his use of polyrhythms and metric modulation.

Joe Zawinul

<http://www.zawinulmusic.com/>

Keyboardist and composer, originally from Austria. Significant for his pioneering use of the electric piano and the synthesizer. Co-led the 1970s jazz fusion group Weather Report with [Wayne Shorter](#).

Saalik Ziyad

http://www.saalikjazz.com/fr_index.cfm

Vocalist, composer, and bandleader from Chicago. Member of the AACM and founder and director of the 5 After 7 Project.

John Zorn

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Zorn

Avant-garde composer, arranger, saxophonist, multi-instrumentalist, and record producer, based in New York City. Best known for his “game piece,” *Cobra*: compositions using visual cues, rules, and strategies to combine and contrast improvisations; and for his work on radical Jewish culture with his quartet, Masada.

Music Societies and Performance Venues

Birdland

<http://www.birdlandjazz.com/>

Seminal jazz club founded in New York City in 1949. Named after [Charlie](#)

[“Yardbird” Parker](#). Features nightly performances by an array of the world’s top jazz talent.

Blues Alley

<http://www.bluesalley.com/index.htm>

Jazz supper club founded in 1965 in Washington DC. Located in an 18th century red brick carriage house, the venue recreates the atmosphere of 1920s and 1930s jazz clubs.

Calgary Jazz Association

<http://calgaryjazz.com/2007/about%20C-Jazz.htm>

Grassroots organization that promotes and presents events year round in Calgary, Alberta, including the [Calgary Jazz Festival](#) and the C-Jazz Carnivale.

Casa del Popolo

<http://www.casadelpopolo.com/>

Includes a café and two performance venues in Montréal. Features nightly performances of jazz, reggae, folk and rock, plus film screenings, poetry readings, cabarets, and other artistic exhibitions. Also hosts the [Suoni Per Il Popolo](#) music festival.

Coastal Jazz and Blues Society

<http://www.coastaljazz.ca/homepage>

Community-based, non-profit, charitable arts organization founded in Vancouver in 1986. Holds an annual concert season from September to May and produces the [Vancouver International Jazz Festival](#). Also organizes education and outreach initiatives, including the Vancouver Creative Music Institute.

Green Mill

<http://www.greenmilljazz.com/>

Historic jazz club in north Chicago. Founded in 1907 and once associated with Al Capone. Continues to feature prohibition-era, speakeasy décor and ambiance. Features live music nightly plus the Uptown Poetry Slam on Sundays.

Jazz at Lincoln Center

<http://www.jalc.org/>

This program, run out of the famous concert hall in New York City, sponsors the

Lincoln Center Orchestra and a year-round schedule of concerts, radio programs, television broadcasts, lectures, workshops, and courses.

London Music Club (Ontario)

<http://www.londonmusicclub.150m.com/>

Features an eclectic mix of jazz, blues, and folk Thursday through Saturday.

Music Gallery

<http://www.musicgallery.org/>

Toronto's centre for creative music, founded in 1976. Promotes musical experimentation, innovation, and cross-pollination between genres, disciplines, and audiences.

New Adventures in Sound Art (NAISA)

<http://www.naisa.ca/>

Non-profit organization, based in Toronto, devoted to producing performances and installations of electroacoustic and experimental sound art. Hosts four annual series, including the Sound Travels Festival of Sound Art and the Deep Wireless Festival of Radio and Transmission Art.

NUMUS

<http://www.numus.on.ca/>

New music society formed in Waterloo, Ontario in 1985. Committed to the innovative programming of new music by Canadian composers, musicians, and ensembles.

Ratchet Series at the Skylark

<http://ratchetseries.blogspot.com/>

Creative music series running weekly on Monday nights at the Skylark in Chicago. The series was launched in 2007.

The Rex

<http://www.therex.ca/>

Hotel jazz and blues bar in Toronto, active since the late 1980s. One of the central features of the Toronto jazz scene, The Rex advertises itself as a casual and affordable club that attracts Canada's best jazz musicians. It features nightly concerts and is also a major venue during the [Toronto Jazz Festival](#).

Sangati Center

<http://www.sangaticenter.org/about.html>

A non-profit chamber music venue and community centre in San Francisco focused on Indian classical music. Also features some interesting jazz and “fusion” projects. Founded in 2006 by Gautam Ganesham, who remains a powerful force in community music organizing.

Santa Barbara (California) New Music Series

<http://www.colterfrazier.com/sbemn.htm>

Bi-monthly event started in 2006 to provide space for non-mainstream, creative music in Santa Barbara.

Trane Studio

<http://tranestudio.com/frames-index.htm>

Bar, restaurant, and jazz club in Toronto, active since 2004. Features nightly live music showcasing both the history of jazz and its current manifestations in African, Urban, Latin, and World music.

Upstream Music Association

<http://upstream.squarespace.com/>

Based in Halifax, NS, the association has organized a year-round concert series for 20 years focusing on improvisation and experimental music across genres and national boundaries. It currently sponsors four separate orchestras.

Velvet Lounge

<http://www.velvetlounge.net/>

Famous Chicago jazz club founded in 1982 and still managed by tenor saxophonist [Fred Anderson](#). Hosts live music five nights a week plus Sunday jam sessions.

Victoria Jazz Society

<http://jazzvictoria.ca/>

Professional arts organization founded in Victoria, British Columbia in 1981. Organizes the Jazzfest International and the Vancouver Island Blues Bash every year.

Western Front

<http://front.bc.ca/>

Centre for poets, dancers, musicians, and visual artists interested in explorations and interdisciplinary practice. Founded in Vancouver in 1973. Has played a major role in the development of media/electronic art in Canada.

WIG Foundation

<http://www.stichtingwig.com/>

Based in Amsterdam. Promotes improvised and composed music and produces concerts, CDs, and tours. Lead by bandleaders [Ab Baars](#), and [Ig Henneman](#).

Yardbird Suite

<http://www.yardbirdsuite.com/>

One of North America's only all-volunteer run jazz clubs. Founded in 1957 in Edmonton, Alberta. Features live concerts Friday and Saturday nights, September through June, plus Tuesday night open jam sessions. Is also one of the major venues for the [Edmonton International Jazz Festival](#).

Professional Organizations

American Jazz Institute

<http://www.amjazzin.com/>

A non-profit organization based out of Los Angeles, dedicated to the enrichment and enhancement of jazz music. They maintain a repertory orchestra; educate the public through live performances and panel discussions; and archive and preserve scores, arrangements, recordings, artwork, photographs, etc.

International Computer Music Association (ICMA)

<http://www.computermusic.org/>

International affiliation involved in the technical, creative, and performance aspects of computer music. Serves composers, researchers, engineers, and musicians interested in the integration of music and technology.

International Society for Improvised Music (ISIM)

<http://isim.edsarth.com/>

A professional academic organization now in its 4th year, based out of Ann Arbor,

Michigan. ISIM focuses on performance, education, and research from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

International Women in Jazz

<http://66.241.215.116/iwjazz/newlook.cfm?itemCategory=22709&siteid=11&priorId=0>

Non-profit organization committed to supporting women jazz artists and to fostering a greater awareness of the diverse contributions women make to jazz.

Mary Lou Williams Foundation

<http://www.marylouwilliamsfoundation.org/index.htm>

Organized to extend the life story and musical legacy of pianist Mary Lou Williams, and to advance the public knowledge of jazz through education and performance. Administers the Mary Lou Williams collection, located at the [Institute of Jazz Studies](#) at Rutgers University in Newark, NJ.

Modern Improvisational Music Appreciation (MIMA)

<http://www.mimamusic.org/index.htm>

Intercultural charity that trains and manages musicians to lead community impact initiatives around the world. Founded in Princeton, NJ in 2004.

Recording Labels

Ambiances Magnétiques

<http://www.ambiancesmagnetiques.com/>

Founded in 1984 in Montréal, this label offers a large breadth of audacious and avant-garde musics referred to as “Music Actuelle.”

Angry Vegan Records

<http://www.angryvegan.com/>

Independent label based in Ventura, California focusing on electronic/experimental music. Founded by composer, conductor, and trumpet player [Jeff Kaiser](#).

Cadence Jazz Records

<http://www.cadencejazzrecords.com/>

Established in 1980 to promote outstanding jazz recordings without concern for their commercial appeal. Based in Redwood, NY.

CIMP Records

<http://www.cimprecords.com/>

Dedicated to producing a broad range of Creative Improvised Music Projects. Based in Redwood, NY.

DAME

<http://www.actuellecd.com/en/>

Founded in 1991 by composer, alto-saxophonist, and vocalist [Joane Héту](#) to produce and distribute innovative musics ignored by the mainstream music industry. Supports many different independent labels from Quebec. Website includes bios and discographies for all their affiliated artists.

Deep Listening Catalog

<http://www.deeplistening.org/site/catalog/main>

Annotated artists' catalog committed to music and sound works that transcend cultural boundaries. Curated by composer and performer [Pauline Oliveros](#).

Drip Audio

<http://www.dripaudio.com/>

Formed in 2005 in Vancouver by Jesse Zubot. Releases unique artistic creations that do not conform to existing musical genres.

Edgetone Records

<http://www.edgetonerecords.com/>

Based in San Francisco, this label supports avant-garde and experimental music and D.I.Y. (do it yourself) artists.

Incus Records

<http://www.incusrecords.force9.co.uk/>

British label devoted to improvised, experimental, and avant-garde music. Founded in London in 1970 by [Derek Bailey](#), [Tony Oxley](#), and [Evan Parker](#).

Intakt Records

<http://www.intaktrec.ch/>

Independent Swiss label devoted to European free improvisation and international experimental music.

Justin Time Records

<http://www.justin-time.com/>

One of Canada's major independent jazz labels, founded in Montréal in 1983 by Jim West. Helped launch the careers of vocalist Diana Krall and pianist Oliver Jones.

Matchless Recordings

<http://www.matchlessrecordings.com/>

British label that promotes meaningful and fulfilling musical expression without concern for established preferences, fashionable nuances, or market forces. Directed by percussionist [Eddie Prevost](#).

pfMentum Records

<http://www.pfmentum.com/>

Improv-based, artist-run label based in San Diego, California. Founded by composer, conductor, and trumpet player [Jeff Kaiser](#).

Verve Music Group

<http://www.vervemusicgroup.com/>

Verve Records was founded by Norman Granz in 1956. During the 1950s and 1960s, it recorded most of the major American jazz artists, including [Charlie Parker](#), [Dizzy Gillespie](#), [Duke Ellington](#), and [Count Basie](#). It also released the famous bossa nova albums *Jazz Samba* and *Getz/Gilberto*.

Software Designers and Programs

ChuckK

<http://chuck.cs.princeton.edu/>

Audio programming language for real time synthesis, composition, and performance. Offers composers, researchers, and performers a tool for building and experimenting with audio synthesis/analysis programs.

Cycling 74

<http://cycling74.com/>

Produces platforms for media applications, including Max/MSP/Jitter, a program very popular with those experimenting with music improvisation through computer technology.

impromptu

<http://impromptu.moso.com.au/>

Programming environment for composers, sound artists, and graphic artists. Allows for the creation and manipulation of running programs in live performance. Created by Andrew Sorensen.

SuperCollider

<http://supercollider.sourceforge.net/>

Environment and programming language for real time audio synthesis. Provides a state of the art, realtime sound synthesis server. Program written by James McCartney.

Voyager

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/leonardo_music_journal/v010/10.11ewis.html

In an article in the *Leonardo Music Journal*, jazz scholar George Lewis discusses his computer music program that analyzes an improviser's performance in real time, generating complex responses to the performance and independent behaviour from the program's internal processes.

Theatrical Improvisation

Annoyance Theatre and Bar

<http://www.annoyanceproductions.com/>

Founded in 1987 in Chicago. Produces sketches, plays, cabarets, musicals, and films, all based on improvisation. Also operates a training program that they bill as "uncensored and void of traditional improv rules."

Bad Dog Theatre

<http://www.baddogtheatre.com/modules/news/>

[Theatresports](#) company founded in Toronto in 1982. Spawned *Kids in the Hall*. Features nightly shows, Tuesdays through Saturdays, plus classes and free drop-in workshops on Saturday nights.

BATS Improv

<http://www.improv.org/Home.aspx>

[Theatresports](#) company founded in San Francisco in 1987. Runs the Laughing Stock program, offering free improvisation classes to people living with AIDS, cancer, and other chronic and life-threatening illnesses.

Centre for Playback Theatre

<http://www.playbackschool.org/>

Playback theatre is a form of personal improvisational theatre that fosters community dialogue and supports individual human rights. The centre was founded in 2006 in New Paltz, NY.

Forum Improvisation

<http://www.forum-improvisation.net/en/home>

International platform for issues and viewpoints within contemporary improvisational theatre. Includes an extensive list of links for improv ensembles around the world and an alphabetical list of bios for the associated actors.

hum

<http://www.humdansoundart.ca/>

Interdisciplinary performing arts company formed in Toronto in 2000. Explores the boundaries between movement, sound, theatre, improvisation and other media.

Impatient Theatre

<http://www.impatient.ca/>

Founded in Toronto in 2001. Features live comedy two nights a week and offers workshops and classes on longform improv (see [iO](#)).

Improv Encyclopedia

<http://improvencyclopedia.org/>

Bills itself as “the largest collection of resources for improvisation theater on the web.” Includes links to improv people, troupes, books, articles, and websites, as

well as a list of improv game categories and a glossary of improv terms.

Improv Everywhere

<http://improveverywhere.com/>

Executes missions causing scenes of chaos and joy in public places. While these missions are pre-planned, the organization argues that improvisation occurs in the interactions between its agents and the public. Based in New York City.

International Theatresports Institute

<http://www.theatresports.org/>

Non-profit organization that manages the copyrights and trademarks to four improvisation formats developed by [Keith Johnstone](#): Theatresports, Micro Impro, Gorilla Theatre, and the Life Game. Based in Calgary, Alberta.

iO Improv

<http://ioimprov.com/>

Founded in 1981 by Charna Halpern and Del Close. Developed a deep, robust form of comic improvisation based on trust and agreement between performers, now known as “longform.” Operates two theatres, one in Chicago and the other in Los Angeles.

Keith Johnstone

<http://www.keithjohnstone.com/>

Internationally recognized authority in the field of theatrical improvisation. Created “Theatresports,” an improv format in which two teams compete against one another for points. Founded the [International Theatresports Institute](#) in Calgary, AB.

Keith Johnstone Teaches

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGpzYa9d-Hk>

Rare video of Johnstone teaching actors in the development of comic mask techniques.

learnimprov.com

<http://www.learnimprov.com/>

Devoted to the art of improvisational comedy theatre. Provides a collection of structures and tools to help one study improv comedy.

Ligue Nationale d'Improvisation (LNI)

<http://www.lni.ca/fr/index.php3>

[Need someone more fluent in French to annotate this website.]

National Theatre of the World (NTOW)

<http://www.thenationaltheatreoftheworld.com/NTOW.html>

Progressive theatre company based in Toronto. Produces *Impromptu Splendor*, an improvised one-act play, and *The Carnegie Hall Show*, a “meta-variety spectacle.” Also showcases a new improvised Canadian play every month.

New Improv Page

<http://fuzzyco.com/improv/>

A national and international resource of news and links about improvisational theatre. Includes lists of improv groups, performers, festivals, workshops and classes, and games.

Second City

<http://www.secondcity.com/>

Bills itself as “the leading brand in improv-based sketch comedy.” Founded in Chicago in 1959, the organization also has theatres and training centers in Toronto and Hollywood, plus 11 full-time touring ensembles.

Spolin Center

<http://www.spolin.com/>

Site devoted to the work of Viola Spolin, creator of Theatre Games, regarded by many as the mother of improvisational theatre. Site also includes a genealogy of American improvisation.

Unexpected Productions

<http://www.unexpectedproductions.org/>

First American company to perform [Theatresports](#), founded in Seattle, Washington in 1983. Also offers improv classes.

Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre

<http://www.ucbtheatre.com/>

Presents comedy shows seven nights a week in New York City and Los Angeles.
Also runs sketch and improvisational comedy classes for writers and actors.
Alumni include many famous comedians and writers from *Saturday Night Live*,
30 Rock, *The Office*, etc.