

INSTITUTO DE EDUCACIÓN MUSICAL (IEM) THE METHODOLOGY OF IMPROVISATION

Daniel Roca

www.iem2.com

What is the IEM?

A group of Spanish teachers in **all levels and areas** of musical teaching and learning dedicated since 1993 to the **renovation of traditional methodology** based on:

- Development of creativity through **improvisation**
- **Analysis** as a means of providing elements for improvisation
- We intend to help teachers make music teaching creative again without disregarding instrumental and technical skills

To improvise is...

- To **“talk”** with your instrument or voice
- To **control** the results of your playing according to a certain musical idiom or style
- To use your knowledge of music, at any level, in a **practical** way

IEM Basic Ideas

- All subjects are unified by a **common methodology**
- Improvisation is not so much a goal in itself, as a consequence of **controlling the musical idiom**
- **Analysis** and **hearing** are necessary collaborators in this task
- **Instrumental skills** must be based on the control of the musical idiom
- The teaching process is based on the **development of creativity**
- Every player must in some way be a composer, and every composer must in some way be a player
- The teacher serves as a **guide** and **conductor** of musical learning

Methodological Process

1-The musical piece or score as a point of departure

Analysis of a score reveals the elements that will be practised through improvisation

2-The musical work or score as a goal

The teacher presents activities that lead to a piece similar to the work intended as a goal. At the end, the score is showed and, if necessary, practised

In both cases, the teacher selects and analyses the piece and extracts elements to be developed.

1. Selection and analysis of the score or musical work
2. Extraction of melodic, rhythmic, harmonic and formal processes
3. Proposal of practical instrumental activities derived from analysis
4. Improvisation and composition of works or fragments similar to the original work

How does the IEM spread its ideas?

- By teaching courses all over Spain and in other countries (www.iem2.com)
- By publishing textbooks on different subjects (www.enclavecreativa.com)
- By organising a big annual meeting by the end of July: **“Improvisation as Pedagogical System”**
- Course “Improvisation as a Pedagogical System”

Our biggest meeting takes places in the end of July every year, this year for the 16th time in the Higher Conservatory of Salamanca.

In this meeting we offer courses on:

- Improvisation (up to 7 levels)
- Analysis and Composition
- Jazz (2 levels) and Flamenco
- Improvisation for small children
- Improvisation for Teachers (Conservatory, Children and Secondary Education)
- Improvisation for Choir Conductors and Dance Pianists

IEM's Published books

(www.enclavecreativa.com)

Musical Language, Theory and Hearing (10 vols. each)

Analysis and Harmony

Main Instrument: Initiation, Elementary and Advanced Levels

Improvisation, Complementary instrument, Collective instrumental classes

Music in Schools: Pre-school, Primary, Secondary

Analysed Repertoire: Chopin Études, Bach Inventions,
Burgmüller/Bertini, etc.

IEM's Main Contributions

Globality, coherence and integrality of the educational process

All musical levels and all areas of music pedagogy

Improvisation inherent to music learning

Early use of harmonic elements

Foster of analysis and hearing skills

Development of creativity