

# Steve Gibons' Music Improv Workshop for Classical and World Music String Players

**A workshop scaled to the expertise of the participants.**

**Duration: 3 hours – All ages and instruments welcome**

Gibons uses ideas that will be familiar to string players with classical training to bridge the gap between the worlds of written music and that of improv. The workshop also accommodates a wide variety of skill levels by scaling the complexity of the melodic lines and rhythmic harmony parts we use to the participants comfort.

At the very minimum, students must be fluent enough on their instrument to play scales in first position with two accidentals. There is no maximum requirement.

European Gypsy music, Gypsy Jazz, Middle Eastern music, and American Songbook jazz standards are the genres used as a base for the workshop repertoire. These all share many aspects of improvisation technique.

All parts are learned by ear.

## Synopsis:

- **A warm-up with call and response playing:** Have some fun and get acquainted, get a feel for participants' skill levels.
- **Listen and Observe**
  - Learn a phrase and play it over a given chord. Listen to the character of each note in context. Develop a simple rhythmic accompaniment over which individuals play the phrase in turn, as the others accompany.
- **Dominant chord**
  - explore its use in modal playing, as in Klezmer music, and folk and dance music from Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East
- **Phrasing and finding ideas**
  - A simple phrase is modified over many iterations using one chord to reveal ways to discover or generate new ideas.
- **Chord Progression and Jam session**
  - Using these elements we jam over a chord progression that moves through the circle of 5ths. Such as, E7 /// | A7 /// | D7 /// | G7 /// | etc...

Questions about the session are most welcome, see below for contact info.

Participants are welcome to record the workshop.