This course begins Monday, January 11 and ends Friday, March 4. This course meets Monday/Wednesday/Friday @ 8:00 and will be taught in room #102. You must be registered for MUS 434, 3 credits. Daily participation points will be given and constitute a significant amount of the grade for this portion of the course. Attendance is strongly encouraged. Absences will be noted. Excused absences work in accordance with ISU policies, and will include email/text notification prior to class in the case of illness. Be sure to present appropriate documentation for excused absences. Daily participation points will not be made up. Three unexcused absences will equal the lowering of your grade by one letter.

Class will not meet Monday January 18, Friday, February 5, and Friday February 26.

In the maiden voyage of this course, several musical aspects will be introduced, reviewed, discussed, and explored. In-class exercises will be presented to and then expected from each student. Bring your primary instrument each time. A piano will be provided. The required text is Developing Musicianship Through Improvisation by Christopher Azzara. Assorted readings will be assigned, and the material will be provided in a pdf format.

The objective of this course is to introduce all musicians to the world of improvisation, a skill that sharpens music theory, demands technical proficiency, encourages creative thought, improves classical music performance, and offers insight into music education. Although predominantly used in jazz music, improvisation is not limited to one genre.

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements with me asap. Request that a Student Disability Resource staff send a SAAR form verifying your disability and specifying the accommodation you will need.