

## **Juilliard Professor of Vibraphone and Doubles For Drummers Workshop Outline**

### **“The Poetic Language Of Jazz Improvisation” Applicable on all instruments**

#### **2 hour workshops or extended residencies.**

Mr. Sherman does a two-hour workshop primarily on language skills for improvisation (applicable on all instruments). The most common problem that many high school students, college students, and aspiring amateurs have is that they have this eternal question that needs to be clarified. That is “what scales go with which chord changes, how can I apply them to create good solos”. All scales and many rhythmic and harmonic motives, and elements are covered.

My method takes you through learning all your 2-5-1 progressions in all keys using various drills, for voicing and mastery of the chords in all keys. Utilizing major scales and diminished scales I can get a beginner moving very quickly on his or her quest to master the understanding and performance of chord changes. I take you through a simple, and methodical way of thinking about harmony and improvisations. My scale drills and chord outline drills combined with my motive development drill will drive your improvising in forward motion. The simplicity of my way of thinking of the language allows a student to learn it quick and begin soloing right away which turns learning into fun as well as boosts the players confidence on their instrument of choice. Additionally each student will walk away with a complete 25 page copy of my improve skills workshop including things I transcribed for drum set while studying with Elvin Jones.

A performance by my quartet following the workshop is done as part of the workshop or as a separate concert. This allows the students to see my method in its highest form of application. They notice many of the techniques discussed in the clinic in performance. I find this to be a great learning and motivating experience for them. I have had many letters from students long after I'm gone telling me of how my one day at their school helped them feel secure about what they were playing.

Additionally Mr. Sherman brings his 35 years of experience in the New York City freelance scene as a timpanist/percussionist in over 40 Broadway shows, countless jingles and film scores. He also has done a great deal of orchestral work as well as 20<sup>th</sup> century music performances. Having studied with the

legendary Saul Goodman and Buster Bailey for 5 years gives Mr. Sherman the ability to work with the percussion ensembles, percussion sections and privately with the percussionist on the various residencies. Working technique and drills for Snare Drum, Mallets and tympani etc.

This program has been successful at The Juilliard School of Music, Manhattan School Of Music, Peabody Conservatory, New Jersey City University Jazz Dept, USSBA and Youth Education Association, Fiorello LaGuardia School of The Performing Arts (NYC), The KUHN Music Center NYC, University of Southern Mississippi, EJMA Jazz school in Lausanne Switzerland, Jazz and Rock School Freiburg Germany, Occidental College, The Jazz School (Berkeley CA), The Seoul Jazz Academy, The Dreyfus Performing Arts Center, Shenyang University, and many other university and high school music departments that I've traveled to globally.

**Here are some testimonial regarding my teaching method:**

I found Mark's teaching method to be the best I've yet encountered regarding what's REALLY important in jazz, i.e., his "triplets" concept re: feeling time, for example. He knows how to convey all the essentials of extended harmony and at the same time keeps you glued to the basics of swinging, soulful phrasing plus how to listen & respond the other players. U can't get any better than that.

**Larry Coryell**

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Over a span of several decades, Mark Sherman has consistently proven himself as an original and creative improviser. Finally his wonderful improvisation system is available online. This system reveals valuable secrets in a clear easy way and covers all bases Bravo!

**Kenwood Dennard..Associate Professor, Berklee College of Music**

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Mark Sherman's approach to teaching reflects the multidimensional experiences he's had as a pianist, vibist and percussionist over the years performing and recording in a variety of musical contexts. It is one

thing to be a soloist, it is another challenge to be a well-rounded musician who is prepared to play what the music calls for. Mark Sherman can teach what is necessary to play."\*

**Akira Tana Drummer "Tana Reid Project**

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Mark Sherman's master class was absolutely fantastic! It provided students with a clear path to the world of improvisation using a method that was both logical and engaging. That Mark could demonstrate his approach fluently on vibraphone, piano, and drum set also enhanced his presentation tremendously. It was a revelation to a very eager group of musicians, who since that time have improved dramatically. I am grateful to Mark Sherman for putting together a series that will help numerous students find their voice in music.

**Dan Druckman -Faculty, The Juilliard School**

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Finally students of jazz improvisation have a clear guide in Mark Sherman. His method of integrating scales and chords into a linear and rhythmic framework is as satisfying and learning- friendly as I've seen. Any student of Mark's will immediately gain confidence, and the ability to play thru chord changes seamlessly. I applaud his enabling generosity.

**Gordon Gottlieb-The Juilliard School**