

CREATIVITY MASTERCLASS

SPRING 14

Exercises done in class. Most are from Bruce Adolphe's *The Mind's Ear*

Warm-up exercises

- Picture a black telephone. In your mind, turn it red. Now blue. Now rotary dial...
- Picture a banana. Picture it as different colors: red, blue, teal...

Conducting an improvisation

- Pick six people, one conductor and five performers
- Each performer picks a topic to speak on
- The conductor must conduct them through the speeches - entrances, cut-offs, crescendi and diminuendi, rhythm, range, emotions

Noises signifying something (sound effects in reverse)

- Pick five people, one story teller and four sfx people
- The storyteller stands facing the audience, back to the sfx crew, who also face the audience
- The story teller must incorporate the noises (sfx) of the crew behind him immediately upon hearing them

You are (insert desired performer here)

- Play an excerpt of a piece
- Now, imagine you are your favorite performer. Play as that person. Don't simply imagine how they would play it, but that person. Play as they would play.

Improvisation

- Two players
- Player One establishes the mood, idiom, tempo, and key with the initial short phrase
- Player Two must play off of it, extending the original idea
- Continue alternating, keeping it interesting, until a real ending happens

Debate

- Same as above, but respond in contrast instead of in kind
- Sway the other performer of the validity of your musical ideas while refuting the other's