

Denny Zeitlin's "Unlocking the Creative Impulse: The Psychology of Improvisation"

REFERENCES

"Denny Zeitlin's 'Unlocking the Creative Impulse' was one of the highlights of our year. It combines his potent musical magic with his valuable verbal insights into the world of improvisation. The students were focused from the start and came away with some great new ideas ranging from overcoming creative blocks to better and more intuitive communicating with their fellow musicians during performance. Denny relates wonderfully to students of all levels. He also listens and critiques the students' playing with the same rapt attention to detail he demonstrates in his own trio music. His own substantial and integral contribution to the jazz piano world is indispensable, and he brings the same musical weight to his clinic. I wholeheartedly recommend it to any jazz program."

Bevan Manson, Director of University of California Jazz, Berkeley, California

"Your clinic, 'The Psychology of Improvisation,' was a tremendous success...your participation was a highlight of this year's festival."

Susan Muscarella & Jeff Brain, Co-Chairs, Pacific Coast Collegiate Jazz Festival

"In my twenty plus years of directing the four year jazz degree program at Sonoma State University, we have presented hundreds of workshops and concerts. Denny Zeitlin's 'Unlocking the Creative Impulse' workshop was certainly one of the very best. Denny's genius crosses many fields and he definitely inspires students to think about many issues important for the creative musician. These kinds of ideas are rarely explored in most workshops. We have had Denny Zeitlin for this workshop twice and are booking a third this coming school year. He has also played some very memorable concerts at school. I would certainly give this workshop presentation my highest recommendation. It is the kind of experience that can forever change a young musician's life no matter what his level of musical development. Do not miss a chance to connect with this extremely unique musician and human being."

Mel Graves, Professor of Music, Director of Jazz Studies, Sonoma State University, California

"Denny proved to be an absolutely superb, inspiring and thoroughly engaging presenter in our program...Denny remained absolutely clear and focused, even though his presentation, on this day, included responding to questions or ideas throughout the session. Although his presentation is indeed intellectually stimulating and thought-provoking, not once did Denny speak "above our head" as might a presenter with such experience and background...Denny sent our teachers off feeling renewed and reflective."

Mitchell Loch, Program Coordinator, San Francisco Unified School District, Center for the Advancement and Renewal of Educators.

"It was an incredible evening. Dr. Zeitlin's talk and piano playing were thrilling, informative, and exciting. Those of us present left feeling highly stimulated intellectually, emotionally, and aesthetically."

Steven Walsh, M.D., President, Northern California Psychiatric Society

"Denny Zeitlin's joint vocations as psychiatrist and as jazz pianist served him well in the lecture/discussion on creativity he gave at Westminster College, in Fulton, Missouri. His 'two eyes make one in sight,' as Robert Frost wrote in one of his poems. Speaking mainly with undergraduate English majors, Zeitlin took an interdisciplinary approach in

suggesting fascinating parallels between jazz and poetry, using aspects of improvisation to link the meters and rhythms of poetry with jazz. We found him equally at home with students and faculty. In conversation he is as eloquent as he is at the keyboard.”

Wayne Zade, Professor of English

“Thank you for your fascinating insights on creativity.”

Alex Heisler, Director, Musik-Zelt-Festival, Freiburg, Germany

“To say it was very well received is an understatement. We just haven’t had a program here where the comments have been so enthusiastic.”

Lloyd C. Patterson, M.D., Director of Medical Education, Herrick Hospital, Berkeley, California

“Many thanks for a superb performance/lecture. You certainly left our audience in a very pleased and satisfied state. It was a pleasure to meet and work with you and we look forward to another opportunity to do so.”

Roberta Janis, Regional Representative, American Friends of the Hebrew University

“Your presentation certainly played a key role in the overall success of the day. I thought you would be interested in reading a few of the audience responses taken from the evaluation forms. ‘(Dr. Zeitlin) was excellent; very clear and interesting—an exciting speaker.’ ‘This man is inspiring.’ ‘Very rich and stimulating and rewarding.’ ‘Excellent—even quality, relaxed, informal, stimulating. Best program to date.’ “

Jerome Motto, M.D., Chair, Program Planning Committee, Alumni Faculty Association, LPPI-University of California, San Francisco

“Thanks so much for your lecture. You had the best turn-out yet for any of the Speaking Jazz Lectures... The lecture you delivered brought new faces to Tresidder Union, and contributed greatly to everyone’s knowledge and appreciation of jazz.”

Jim Nadel & Susan Busrah, Student Arts at Stanford University

“All the reviews were outstanding. The entire executive committee wants to extend our appreciation for the delightful mix of entertainment and insight you provided.”

Robin Cooper, M.D., Secretary, San Francisco Psychiatric Society

“Thank you for your stimulating contribution to the symposium “Science and Art.” Your performance, comments, and responses to questions did much to move the conversation along. We have received many positive responses...I hope we shall have further opportunities to collaborate.”

Paul G. Heltne, President, the Chicago Academy of Sciences

“We were all greatly impressed by your creativity in molding together a discussion of creative and artistic processes with your personal demonstrations and performance of improvisational music on the piano. Feed-back from the group included such comments as ‘the best program we have ever had’, ‘if we just had Denny Zeitlin for every meeting, I would want nothing more,’ and ‘the finest demonstration and presentation of that kind that I have ever heard.’ “

Kenneth Seeman, M.D., Program Chairman, Mid-Peninsula Psychiatric Society, California

