

Fearless Improv: Tricks and Treats for Harpists

A hands-on approach to unlocking your creativity and confidence at the harp

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Common Fears (and Why They're Normal!)

"I'm classically trained. I don't know where to start!"

→ We'll explore how your training gives you the perfect foundation for improvisation.

Notes:

"It sounds random—how do I choose what to play?"

→ Discover simple frameworks, motives, and patterns that make your playing sound intentional.

Notes:

"I'm not really creative."

→ Improvisation isn't about inventing something new—it's about play! You already have the tools; we'll practice unlocking them.

Notes:

"I'm a beginner and don't have the technique."

→ Even one hand and a few strings can tell a musical story. Simplicity = clarity.

Notes:

“I need to study more theory first.”

→ We'll use sound and shape as guides. Theory can explain what you do—after you've done it!

Notes:

Tricks for Getting Started

- **Limit your choices.**
Fewer notes = more freedom. Try 3 or 4 notes and see how many moods you can create.
 - **Use patterns you already know.**
Arpeggios, scales, and rolled chords can all become improvisational tools.
 - **Start with rhythm.**
Even a single note can sound exciting if you change the rhythm.
 - **Call and response.**
Say something simple, then answer it. It's conversation through sound.
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Treats to Try at Home

- Create a “mood piece” using just one chord.
- Trade 8s (or 4s) with a friend—each of you improvises for 8 beats!
- Use your favorite holiday tune and vary the rhythm, register, or mode.
- Set a timer for one minute—improvise without stopping, no judgment!

Notes:
