

How to find our sound/voice



Our music is an extension of us. It's unique!

Like a slot machine, we can play what is put in front of us, but what happens when we take away the coin? What does our subconscious allow us to do...what is our voice?

Well over years, all of the things our ears have heard add to our sound choices. Eg we like Debussy and the Beatles, or "that music from an advert"

So where do we start? This can be a little scary, but embrace the excitement of what you will make

We can start with random pedals and make anything up.

Try one finger

Then try putting the harp in a key and do the same

Then add a rhythm/ a groove

Or

We can start with a chord we like and play around with it, improvise, make things up over it

The harp is like a mini band:

- Treble eg a linear instrument/singer
- Mid section: harmony eg piano/guitar
- Bass

So when we pick a chord, we have more to work with as we have our accompaniment

This is all following the principles of Jazz

Harmony, Rhythm, Improvising

We can also work within C major, a key we all know and easiest on the harp. Play the chord of C in the left hand and instead of putting C on the top, put A or B (6th or 7th) then improvise in the right hand.

Try other chords in that shape. Eg ACEG, DFAC

Then try and add a groove to it

Swing or straight.. all down to the quavers. This is another topic.

For the moment think of 4 bars with 4 beats in each bar. Play the chord on beat 1. Then try 1 and the + of 2. Set up the groove and try and plant little seeds above. Start with one note.

Try and make something that you like. It doesn't have to be perfect. It just has to fill your soul with joy!!!

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