Harps North West
Charity number 1093441

Bite size Composition - Day 2

THEME - Improvising (noodling in a minor key)

Carrying on from yesterday's exercise of improvising/noodling in a major key, we are now going to try the same but in a minor key.

Little Bit of Theory

Every major scale has a relative minor scale that uses the same set of notes.

You can work out the minor from the major scale by going up to the 6th note of the Major and starting your new scale from there, this will give you the **natural minor**.

C D E F G A B C.	G A B C D E F# G	Eb F G Ab Bb C D Eb
A B C D E F G A	E F# G A B C D E	C D Eb F G Ab Bb C

So inversely, going up to the 3rd note in the minor scale will give you the relative Major.
A crib sheet is attached with all majors and relative minors written out to refer to.

Exercise - Minor Noodle

- Choose a minor key
- Choose a count (3, 4, 6 etc) and a tempo (Speed)
- Set a pulse by playing the **tonic/keynote** (first note of the scale) in the LH
- Play around with patterns and shapes in the RH - keep it simple and build from there.
- Remember your patterns will sound complete and resolved if they work their way back to the tonic.

For example, if you choose A minor, the relative Major is C. So have your levers set as you would for C Major as it uses the same notes but remember that the **tonal centre/home** is now A.

Example In A minor - LH plays - A A A
Count - 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3
RH experiment with patterns, generally starting and ending on the tonic, A.

Start the RH with something simple to start, keep it comfortable e.g. walking up and down a couple of notes from the tonic, then expand and experiment from there. Don't give up if you loose the pulse of something sounds "naff" just keep trying other shapes and patterns, and don't be afraid of **Space,** the gaps between notes are just as important as the notes themselves.

Handy tip: if you're struggling with the multitasking of counting and feeling a beat whilst improvising use a **metronome** to keep the beat for you. I use a free app on my phone called Sound Brenner but there are lots of options out there. Personally, for an exercise like this, I like ones that you can turn the volume down and have quite quiet in the background as support rather than loud and over bearing.

As always if you have any questions or want more info on anything feel free to get in touch with me at online@harpsnorthwest.org.uk

Happy noodling! Susan @ HNW