

The Golden Age of Non-Idiomatic Improvisation

FYS 129

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Various Quotes

These slides contain a collection of some of the quotes largely from the musicians that are studied during the course.

The idea is to present “musicians in their own words”.

**French
Saxophonist,
Vocalist &
Composer
(b. May 28,
1980 -)**



Alexandra Grimal

Grimal on Formative Influences

Grimal: I love poetry, abstraction, and beauty. I love to be questioned by a work of Art. Questioned in a light, deep, and sometimes humorous way. To me, joy is much more efficient in terms of opening thoughts than dramas. I like to put the audience into a reflective and serene state. So that everyone's inner vision of life can reveal itself and blossom into the world for other human beings around.

Grimal on Improvisation

Grimal: To me, improvisation is being alive, and sharing vital energy with the other musicians and with the audience. It is sharing the miracle of breathing, and apprehending the life and thoughts through sounds. It is freedom to do, to play, to interact, to be able to create the life we want to live, and choose the people with whom we can grow and become wiser.

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Grimal on the Challenges to Women in Creative Music

Grimal: The whole society is trying to come over those ancient reflexes. So, I advise young women to trust themselves, to dare disagree, and if they become “hysterical” or “hard to work with” just because they allow themselves to be in line with their musical visions, then, to keep to their choices and cope with the delicate situations. They must believe in themselves, despite all the obstacles they might encounter, which is extremely hard, I know. And then, to go to work with musicians who respect them and make them feel good and confident. To stand away from the others and be who they truly are. The world has to be built with those who really want to change it.

Grimal on the Message in her Music

Grimal: I try to be true and humble to what I really want to say and be. Each time, it is different. Most of the time, I hope that I can share ideas of peace, love, freedom and nature. The planet needs us to be brave and invent new ways of taking care of it and also of one another. So I try to make my music beautiful that is to say real and true, to feed others' hearts and share freedom. Freedom to create one's life, freedom to love and freedom to invent our world in a poetic way... Maybe the most beautiful thing is to be present to others and to the world, making each moment as beautiful as possible thinking of the impermanence of things.

Philosophy

Grimal: My grandmother used to tell me to build things as if I would live thousand years and be ready to die tomorrow. I love this way of looking at life. Make everything possible so that it would be full of joy and in resonance with one's values, enjoying every moment as if it was the last one. It makes things somehow very precious and miraculous. Nothing is given or taken for granted. Everything is ephemeral, but the things one builds now will make many generations happy long after one has gone...

Grimal on the Pandemic and Music

Grimal: The pandemic is surely deeply changing many things... This new international situation reveals more than ever the magic of Art, of concerts and records. It emphasizes the fact that we need art in our everyday lives, to grow intellectually and feed our souls... I hope that creative music will become even more necessary and that people will discover music they would never have listened to before, just because maybe there is a little more free time with the repetitive lockdowns. Music can transform boredom into happiness! That is very utopian I know, but dreams make dreamers happy!

Grimal on Multiplicity

Grimal: Well, in France, it is very hard to be an instrumentalist, a singer, a composer, a choreographer... This country always starts from the postulate that one person cannot do many things... That is really a pity, and it is a very narrow-minded point of view... Furthermore, musicians of different aesthetics do not really talk to one another. There is not much respect for differences. I hope that musicians will be “allowed” in the future generations to play whatever music they want without being judged for it, and express themselves in as many talents as they have.