

The Golden Age of Non-Idiomatic Improvisation

FYS 129

David Keffer, Professor
Dept. of Materials Science & Engineering
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-2100
dkeffer@utk.edu
<http://clausius.engr.utk.edu/>

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”.

Emanuele Maniscalco

**Italian
drummer
& pianist**

(December 11,
1983 -)



Maniscalco on the Importance of Creativity

Maniscalco: When musicality and creativity are kept alive as a stove in a countryside kitchen, life becomes a more bearable, and an even more enjoyable adventure.

Emanuele Maniscalco, interview by Simon Sargsyan, January 19, 2018, published at JazzBluesNews, URL: <https://jazzbluesnews.com/2018/01/19/emanuele-maniscalco/>

Maniscalco on Musical Preferences

JBN.S: Which harmonies and harmonic patterns do you prefer now?

Maniscalco: I don't have an answer to this question, but I can say that I prefer everything that can surprise me. I am learning and unlearning slowly and constantly, and my will is not so active in this process.

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Maniscalco on Advice to Aspiring Musicians

JBN.S: Is there any piece of advice you can offer to aspiring students or even your peers that you believe will help them succeed and stay positive in this business?

Maniscalco: Do what you love and love your limits. Everything else is a social game – success included. Once one is aware of that, no real defeat is possible – and even the ‘business side of life’ can be faced with dignity, not as a threat to artistic integrity as many Romantic theorists have taught us for decades.

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Maniscalco on Keeping Jazz Alive

JBN.S: How can we get young people interested in jazz when most of the standard tunes are half a century old?

Maniscalco: Sympathy for the language, free interpretation are much better attitudes in order to keep something alive, in every cultural perspective based on time and/or distance...I don't know if I like the idea that pizza can taste the same all over the world because everybody has access to the same ingredients – I have the same thoughts about jazz. I want to be recognized as a Southern European musician playing jazz, delivering a different message, with my very own limits and strengths.

Maniscalco on the Meaning of Life

JBN.S: John Coltrane said that music was his spirit. How do you understand the spirit and the meaning of life?

Maniscalco: When I was younger I was interested in many things, not just music. Then ambition came and I started to think of myself as a musician, with all the sense of sacrifice and self-infliction that is typical in any adult commitment. At some point in my mid-twenties though, I realized I was missing a lot by just sitting in my room playing my instrument. I was easily sad and frustrated, because that perseverance wasn't for me. My 'diet' wasn't balanced. So I decided to expand my field of interest again, using all my best energy to be at the center of anywhere I wanted to be. Sometimes it would be away from music (although never for too long). As a matter of fact, I believe that this approach has made me a better musician than I ever thought I would be.

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