



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Between Freedom and Fixity: Artistic Reflections on Composition and Improvisation

Ziblat Shay, I.

Citation

Ziblat Shay, I. (2019, December 11). *Between Freedom and Fixity: Artistic Reflections on Composition and Improvisation*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/81819>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/81819>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/81819> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Ziblat Shay I.

Title: Between Freedom and Fixity: Artistic Reflections on Composition and Improvisation

Issue Date: 2019-12-11

Propositions

1. The terms “freedom” and “fixity” contribute to the creation and understanding of music; the dynamic relationship between them is inherent to all kinds of musical practices: composing, improvising, performing, and analyzing.
2. Deconstructing the opposition between freedom and fixity, and pointing out the perpetual interaction between them, makes a useful contribution to already existing artistic practices and theoretical discourses.
3. The relationship between freedom and fixity points toward the inner dynamics of many kinds of creative processes: artistic, academic, or simply any exchange of information through human dialogue.
4. Within a musical context, fixity and freedom can be conceptualized as re-assignable qualities – variables within a formula into which any musical component can be inserted.
5. A single musical piece can be regarded as a composition, as an open work, as a musical instrument, or, more importantly, as an intersection between these things. This coexistence of different identities provides a rich toolbox for composing, performing, and listening.
6. Improvisation involves constant negotiation between stability and change. Improvisation is the continuous struggle of musicians to remain free against the inherent tendency of musical material to become fixed – an idea which binds musician and material together as two agents in a musical act.
7. Freedom is inherent in the interpretation of notated works. This idea forms a direct link between composition and improvisation.
8. Notation serves two purposes: activating the performer’s interpretive freedom, and explicitly communicating the composer’s ideas.
9. Environmental issues and the struggle for a green economy are powerful narratives that can create unexpected bridges between ideological oppositions in a currently polarized – and thus stagnant – political system.
10. Carrying weapons should not only be allowed, but compulsory for every adult citizen. A society where everyone carries a weapon would be peaceful to an ideal degree. As suggested by sci-fi writer Robert Heinlein, "An armed society is a polite society. Manners are good when one may have to back up his acts with his life."