

# Top 14 Tips for Successful Improvisation!

*By Edward Weiss*

Do you think you can't improvise? Nonsense! All you need are a few chords, the right attitude, and a piano or keyboard. Follow these 14 principles and you'll be improvising at the keyboard in no time at all!

1. Do listen to what's going on inside yourself before and while you sit down to play - your inner state will determine the emotional quality of your playing.
2. Do **let go of the need to be perfect**. Trying to "be correct" will defeat the playful attitude necessary for improvisation.
3. Do believe that you are good enough to begin. No one person knows it all so you might as well jump in and experience the joy of improvisation.
4. Do realize that you don't need a lot of theory or technique before you're ready to play piano in the new age style. If you don't begin now, when will you?
5. Do understand that improvisation is not some mysterious skill, but a game that can be learned and played just like any other game.
6. Do **enjoy the process and let go of the outcome**. Trying to control what comes out of you is a sure way to stop the creative flow.
7. Do stop playing when you become bored or indifferent. There is a natural starting and stopping point to playing. Just like anything, when you feel yourself growing disinterested, stop playing.
8. Don't try and make something happen. Trying blocks the creative flow and will result in blocks.
9. Don't expect to create something good. Expectations will always come with judgments and, consequently, you'll end up feeling let down.
10. Don't worry about what is "coming out." Improvisation is about play and freedom to explore. Abandon unrealistic expectations and experience the joy of improvisation.
11. Don't try and please others. The first person you must please is yourself. This may seem obvious but don't underestimate the strong need to please - **ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO THE ARTS!**

12. Don't try and accumulate a "lot of knowledge." All it takes to improvise is a few chords and the proper attitude.
13. Don't think. **Improvisation is about FEELING.** It's about being in the moment and experiencing the moment through the music. Thinking will take you away from your intuition, which will guide you if you listen to it. Intuition will lead you places thinking never could!
14. Don't quit. Practice is what makes intuition stronger. The more you practice or play, the stronger your intuition will grow and the more you will trust it. Your unique voice will emerge and will grow stronger each time you sit down to play.

**Edward Weiss** is a pianist/composer and webmaster of Quiescence Music's online piano lessons. He has been helping students learn how to play piano in the New Age style for over 15 years and works with students in private, in groups, and now over the internet. Stop by for a FREE piano lesson now at: <http://www.quiescencemusic.com>