

Ellen Beckerman's Final Take-Aways

HipHarp Tool Kit 2020

IMPROV:

My biggest take-aways have to do with working with improv and developing my skill set within that. I learned to utilize chord progressions and vamps to underpin my my improvisation, and how to keep the chords in mind with the improv so that the alternate melody lines move from non-chordal notes into chordal ones, bringing moments of harmony here and there. As I worked more with 9th and 7th chords, my ear began hearing a broader palette of harmony. All of this brought greater freedom and expression to my playing, which is one of my goals. I also discovered that my love of bassline motifs can make improv harder, and too fussy, so utilizing either a simpler right hand improv, or simplifying the bass during improv has been key. Some of my pieces have developed into arrangements, which is exciting. I included the drawing below, because I completed it during this class, and for me demonstrates how this class has breathed new life and freedom into my playing (among other things!).

REPERTOIRE AND VIDEO

I completed six tunes during this class:

I Wonder as I Wander

Joy to the World

Christmas Time is Here

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Chestnuts Roasting by an Open Fire

I still intend to make a video for my friends and family within the next week or so. I hope to include all the songs, but two of them are still giving me issues, so we will see. I will share it when I complete it.

GRATITUDE

I have been so grateful for this class, this experience, and all the wisdom shared by everyone. Thank you so much.

