

RECONSTRUCTING BEETHOVEN'S IMPROVISATIONS

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Reconstructing Beethoven's Improvisations is an invitational Symposium with five to seven top experts who are equipped to re-imagine, reconstruct, and imagine beyond Beethoven's improvised music.

The agenda of the workshop is to:

- understand the mind; in particular how improvisation informs us about music and mind.
- understand improvisation's role in musical genius, journeyman music, and the roles and skills of musicians.
- reconstruct or reimagine Beethoven's improvising, which he was known to do frequently both in public and private.
- reconstruct or reimagine the relationship of Beethoven's improvisation process to his composition process.
- discuss and play with ideas about improvisation, thinking, and learning.

Marvin Minsky's ideas about thinking, his life in music as a classical improviser, and his paper "Music, Mind, and Meaning", are inspirations for this symposium.

The music world and popular conception of Beethoven seems to be moving away from the former caricature of Beethoven as an angry, lonely genius toward a more nuanced view: that Beethoven was a driven artist with a loyal pack of friends and active social life. Some go further and take the view that he invented many of the 20th century music ideas (and then some!).

The Symposium will take place Oct 29, 2014. The venue will be the MIT Media Lab Complex, Amherst St, Cambridge, MA, USA.

A small (about 50) participatory audience of faculty, performers, and graduate students will be invited to attend.

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