



# Valued Features of Improvised Musical Interactions

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or, What I Learned From My Computerized Improvisation Partner

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# Interactive Music Partner

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- IMP (because all computer music projects need acronyms for names)
- IMP is a piece of software that will play freely improvised duos with a human
- IMP has Musical Personality Settings (MPS) that affect the way IMP behaves

**IMP should live up to its name.**

# Interactive

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# Musical

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# Partner

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# Musical Personality Settings (MPS)

The screenshot displays the 'Musical Personality Settings' window with the following sections and controls:

- DENSITY of Events:** A slider from 'less dense' to 'more dense' with a value of 80. Below it are controls for 'r metro\_off', 'delay 10', 'r density2', 'prepend set', 't b s', and 'set 80'.
- FREQ LISTENERNESS:** A slider from 'All content from Listening' to 'All content from Program' with a value of 127. Below it are controls for 'r listeneressf2', 'prepend set', 't b s', and 'set 29'.
- DUR LISTENERNESS:** A slider from 'All content from Listening' to 'All content from Program' with a value of 127. Below it are controls for 'r listeneressd2', 'prepend set', 't b s', and 'set 29'.
- MELODICNESS:** A slider from 'melodic' to 'abstract' with a value of 80. Below it are controls for 'r melodicness2', 'prepend set', 't b s', and 'set 77'.
- LENGTH of Events:** A slider from 'longer' to 'shorter' with a value of 80. Below it are controls for 'r length2', 'prepend set', 't b s', and 'set 84.66 6664'.
- RHYTHMIC Regularity:** A slider from 'irregular' to 'regular' with a value of 80. Below it are controls for 'r rhythmic2', 'prepend set', 't b s', and 'set 72'.
- VARIATION:** A slider from 'No variation of MPS' to 'Lots of variation of MPS' with a value of 65. Below it are controls for 's preset', 'end\_time', 'Length of episode in minutes' (set to 0), 'Listen loop reset' (set to 0), 's listen\_loop', 'r ss\_all', 'clocker 00:00:01', and 'translate ms hh:mm:ss'.

At the bottom right, a large digital display shows '0000'. The bottom status bar includes '--- Analyzer ---' and a system tray with various icons.

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**Interactive Musical Partner (IMP)**

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# How do we listen to “free improv”?

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- “Improvisation, by virtue of its emphasis on collaboration and in-the-moment creativity, does seem to invite different approaches to performance, listening, and analysis- approaches that focus as much attention on the human and cultural aspects of music making as on the formal structure of the musical work.”
  - Borgo, David. *Sync or Swarm: Improvising Music in a Complex Age*. New York: Continuum International Publishing Group, 2005.

# Beta Testers

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Ray Moore



Mark McGrain



Brad Walker



Janna Saslaw



Rick Trolsen

# 2 Sessions

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- The beta testers played with IMP twice
- The encounters were separated by about three weeks
- Modifications were made to IMP in the interim

# Player Reactions

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[www.thomaskelley.net](http://www.thomaskelley.net)

# Success Factors

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- Style of improviser (oppositional, cooperative, pitch centric, texture centric, etc.)
- MPS Settings
- Attitude towards IMP
  - trusting
  - controlling
  - testing

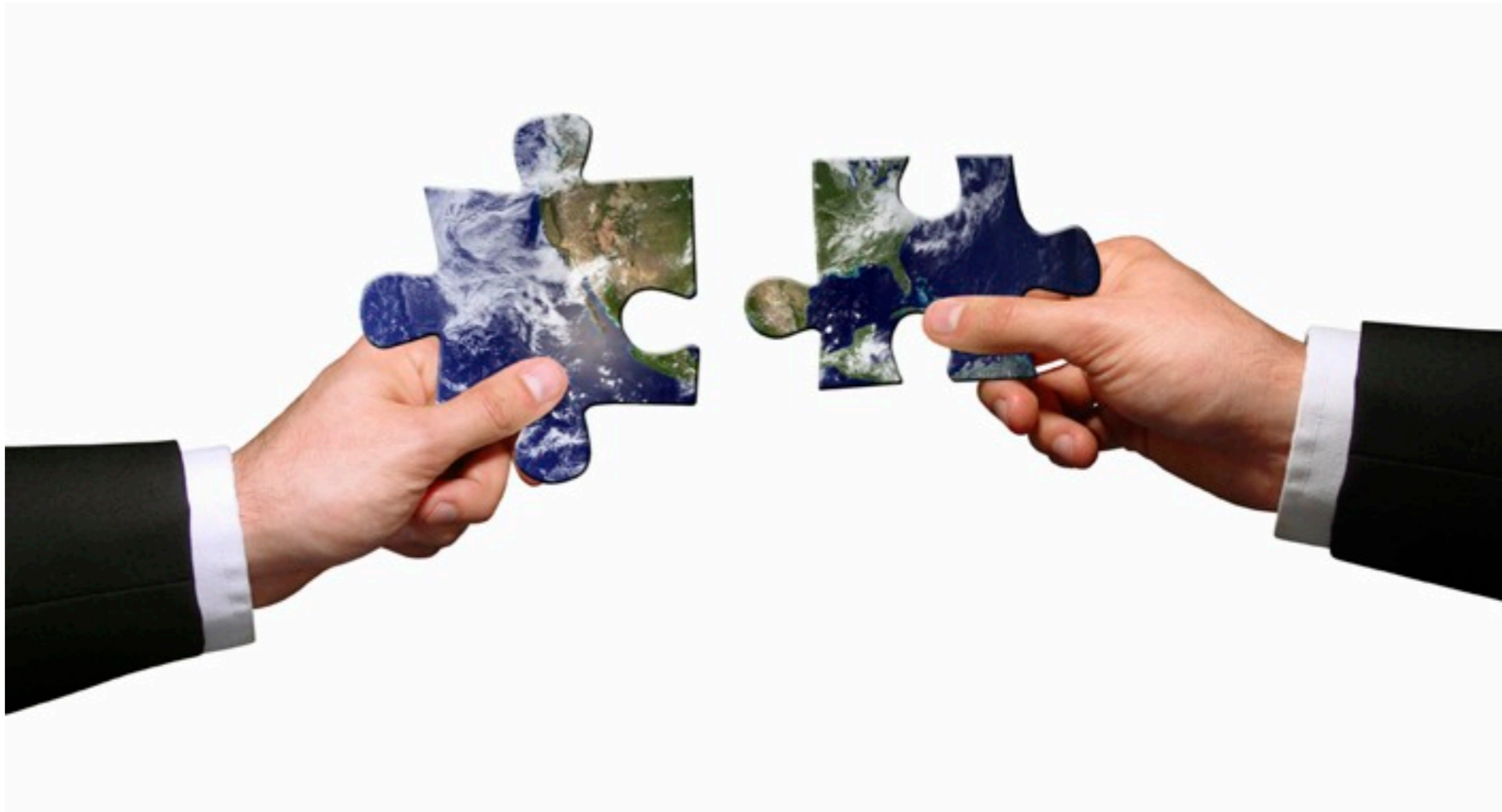
# What Participants Want

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# What Audiences Want

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# More...

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- <http://research.jeffalbert.com/imp> - link to software package, dissertation, video, other papers when published
- Contact me: [jvalbert@loyno.edu](mailto:jvalbert@loyno.edu) or <http://loyno.edu/~jvalbert>