

Sid Lewis & Jamming 101 – interview

Q: *What exactly is “Jamming 101”?*

A: Jamming 101 is a unique system developed by Sid Lewis which allows music fans of all skill levels to play music together. The only scientific system that breaks down the art of “jamming”, or impromptu group music, into clear steps, this workshop uses a proprietary system called Multiple Skill Level Integration (MSLI) makes it possible for players of all abilities to enjoy the class. The music featured covers basic folk sing-a-longs, bluegrass, and rock and blues. The teaching style is a unique blend of entertainment and education involving sing-a-longs, comedy and storytelling.

Q: *Who can benefit from this class?*

A: Anyone with a desire to play music with others! With MLSI the class is enjoyable for those barely playing their first chords, to veteran jammers.

Q: *How did Jamming 101 develop?*

A: Sid Lewis has personally attended over 5000 group music sessions, from beginner circles to advanced jazz sessions. Over the past decade he began to catalogue the systems and etiquette of these jams, and eventually wrote and published the Jamming 101 Course-book. This book clearly spells out all the fine points of group music and is the foundation of the Jamming 101 workshop. Since then Jamming 101 has been taught at over 100 music festivals and colleges, and was recently featured on NPR’s Weekend America.

Q: *What can one expect to learn at this class?*

A: The first goal of Sid is to rid the student of their fears and insecurities regarding playing with others. The student will then learn various styles of music and tools for group integration. These will include accompaniment skills, lead scales, musical cues and communication etc. Books will be available covering jamming and repertoire, and the student will leave with all the information necessary to become involved in more musical jams on their own.

Q: *Where has Jamming 101 been featured at before?*

A: Jamming 101 is growing in popularity at music festivals across the US, including the Strawberry Music Festival (Yosemite, CA), the Kate Wolf Memorial Festival, etc. More recently Sid workshops have been a success at Continued Education venues and corporate events.

Q: *What level is the class?*

A: All skill levels are welcome to this class, from absolute beginners to advanced players. This is due to the unique system Sid employs, MLSI, which makes a place for each player in the circle, and offers individual goals for the different skill levels. This class is truly “everyone’s” class.

Q: *Are study materials available?*

A: Sid Lewis published a custom line of educational media covering all aspects of jamming. These include the flagship Jamming 101 Course-book dealing with the rules and etiquette of the jam, as well as repertoire books of popular songs in all styles. Tabs, scores, CD’s and videos are available, as well as individualized lessons available through the instructor at the time of class.

Q: *Where else can one attend Jamming 101?*

A: Jamming 101 classes now occur throughout the year, appearing at music festivals, college continue Education course, schools and private events and more. The classes and contact information are all posted online at www.jamming101.com.