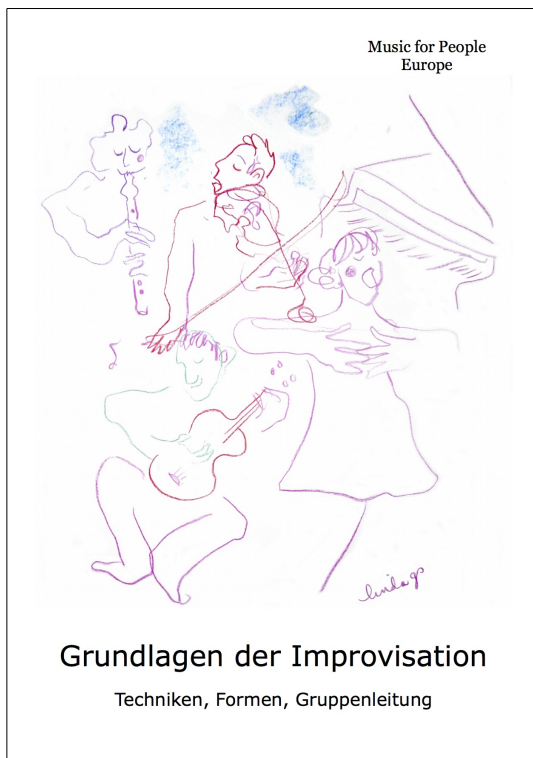




# Music for People Europe

## Association Music for People Europe

### Our Further Education is Getting a Makeover



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We are currently re-structuring Music for People’s Musicianship and Leadership Program and making it available in German. So far, the documents have only been available in English, which is why, for the past four years, we have been working on adapting the schooling materials to our European circumstances. Bernhard Maurer, together with the teaching colleagues, the board and some of the association’s members, have reached an important milestone in the development of Music for People. The book he has written, «Basics of Improvisation» will be published shortly.

As a grand finale, we want to celebrate this with a book vernissage! It will be open to the public and take place in the context of the general assembly on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Villa Stucki in Bern.

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 www.musicforpeople.ch

## 4. General Assembly, Workshops, Book Vernissage and Party

**Saturday March 17, 2018**

### Villa Stucki

Seftigenstrasse 11  
3007 Bern



### Program:

2 pm	General Assembly of the association	(Members)
	Music for People Europe	
4 pm	MfP Workshops	(public)
6 pm	Buffet	(public)
7:30 - 10 pm	Book Vernissage, afterwards	(public)
	we will make music and celebrate	

Villa Stucki is the perfect size for this event. The workshops and the party are open to everyone. Bring your instruments. We are looking forward to guests from all over Europe!

A more detailed invitation will follow. Information can also be found on our website ([sign up now](#)). Please sign up as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly.

## Connection With a Shared Third

Since the first Workshop I took part at Kientalerhof in 2007, I was fascinated by the Music for People way to make music together. I have tried to find out what attracts me so much.

How is music created in free improvisation, as well as in openly lead music groups? Paolo Knill, co-founder of the *Expressive Arts Therapy*, speaks of the phenomenon of the presence of the Unexpected Third. When music appears, it can lead to a common experience that cannot be put into words. Mary Knysh uses the term «numinous» to describe this phenomenon.

While looking for explanations, I encounter new experiences and self-awareness in workshops, classes and music sessions. In 2017, I was able to take part in different Music for People activities and even to stage own improvisation moments.

Last weekend, at the *Open Space Now* Soundcamp on the topic of resonance, I experienced the very different ways in which people play together, and how they joined into a bigger entity through free expression, connective singing, attentive listening, as well as rhythm and energy based on TAKETINA.

Diversity and variety went hand in hand. A common center developed, carried by participants and facilitators and opened spaces in which this Third was suddenly present, a Third that can be felt, that is warm, full of life, unexpected, makes us alert, and

## Outlook

### MLP Seminars at Kientalerhof

#### Winter Seminar

with Christoph Wiesmann  
and Bernhard Maurer  
February 2 – 4, 2018

#### Spring Seminar

with Mary Knysh  
and Alexander Merz  
April 17 – 22, 2018  
[www.kientalerhof.ch](http://www.kientalerhof.ch)

## USA

### Adventures in Improvisation

February 9 – 11, 2018  
Immaculata – PA – USA

### Adventures in Improvisation

May 4 – 6, 2018  
Stony Point – NY -USA  
[www.musicforpeople.org](http://www.musicforpeople.org)

## Germany

### Drumcircle Extended

with Mary Knysh  
and Alexander Merz  
April 7 – 8, 2018  
Elmhaus, Schöningen  
[https://www.facebook.com/events/129404531102615/?active\\_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/129404531102615/?active_tab=about)

## Holland

### Weekend Workshop

with Mary Knysh  
and Husson Groenenboom  
April 14 – 15, 2018  
[www.musicforpeople.ch](http://www.musicforpeople.ch)

## Spain

### The Art of Improvisation

MfP Spring Seminar  
with Mary Knysh  
April 28 – 29, 2018  
Escuela de Música con  
Corazón, Madrid  
[www.musicaconcorazon.com](http://www.musicaconcorazon.com)

leads to amazement. It can be quiet or strongly audible, we can feel and grasp it, moment after moment, it ends and develops again. It was special for me, being allowed to invite participants to a Music for People sequence in this context.

I became aware of the fact that it is not the places and groups, where and with whom our common effort draws its circles, but rather the disposition and mindfulness of the participants that decide how intense it becomes when people make expressive music together.

That is why I would like to continue my commitment to collective projects as well as partnerships with different groups, such as Open Space Now, Klangkeller Bern, World Music Projects, Expressive Art Therapy, TAKETINA and many more.

Our society needs spaces where humaneness can do something against the looming threat of being alone.

Matthias Rauh

## **What** does Free Improvisation mean?

Musicians often interpret the term «Free Improvisation» in completely different ways. That is why we need to explain what we from Music for People mean when we use the term.

In his new book «Basics of Improvisation», Bernhard Maurer writes the following:

*«For most People improvisation is associated with freedom. But it has just as much to do with boundaries and rules. Even if we improvise 'freely', there are boundaries. Choosing an instrument or voice is already a restriction. Additionally, we usually move in the restricted space of our background and experiences, and make use of certain formulas we are familiar with. Free improvisation is something like the quintessence of improvisation. But what it means and what we are free of, those questions are the subject of a never-ending discussion. Some say, improvisation is only free when we move away from all the 'clichés' and create the music in the moment, in a completely new way. Others say that free improvisation doesn't exist, since even music that we create spontaneously is shaped by many influences and experiences. In the last 50 years a small, yet continuous free improvisation scene has developed. There, only music is played in which the parameters on which we build our music here (melody, rhythm, harmony, form) are suspended, or at least not recognizable for outsiders. The musicians from this scene bravely follow their radical concept, regardless of the fact that their music only appeals to a very small group of interested people. It is an admirably idealistic effort - trying to create completely 'new music' every time, in a world where, musically, everything seems to have been said already.*

*Contrary to these radical concepts, in our context, «free» simply means improvisation without a clear specification. This means*

## **Outlook**

### **Switzerland**

#### **MLP «Skills Coaching»**

with Bernhard Maurer  
January 7, 2018, 11-17 h  
New: Open Improvisation  
Forum 17.30-20.30  
BauArt Basel  
[www.musicforpeople.ch](http://www.musicforpeople.ch)  
under Local Offers

### **Region Basel**

#### **OPEN CIRCLE**

with Diana Cocca  
From January 2018  
[www.singenundklingen.com](http://www.singenundklingen.com)

### **Region Bern**

#### **Musik im Moment**

with Christoph Wiesmann  
MiM-Evenings:  
Biweekly on Tuesdays  
MiM-Days:  
Jan 21, 2018, 10.30-15.45 h  
Mar 11, 2018, 10.30-15.45 h  
Klangraum in Frauenkappelen  
[www.musikimmoment.ch](http://www.musikimmoment.ch)

#### **Improvisation, Stimme und Bewegung**

with Pierre Walther  
and Matthias Rauh  
Biweekly on Mondays  
PROGR, Bern  
[www.anklangundloesung.ch](http://www.anklangundloesung.ch)

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*that everything has room – it can be chaotic, but a structured rhythmic, melodic or harmonious form may evolve as well.*

*But the structures develop in the moment of playing together, they are not agreed upon or arranged. In free improvisation, we draw from our intuition and from the communication with the other musicians in the most direct way. This is one of the most interesting exercises, because we spontaneously choose from a vast abundance of possibilities and create music entirely in the moment.»*

Free improvisation, as we understand it at Music for People, is inspired by the following main ideas: Before we begin an improvisation, we let go, symbolised by the release movement. With it, we free ourselves from intentions, problems, and preconceived opinions. We dive into the silence, like practicing Zen meditation. We listen deeply into this silence, which is the origin of all music. From there, sounds and melodies can evolve. When we were improvising together, David Darling told us many times: «*If you don't want to say anything, just offer your silence!*». Silence is also music! Rests make music suspenseful and interesting. Most notably, they let the listener become attentive.

In his classes, David Darling used to point out what free improvisation in Music for People is about: «*One of the most important things you can learn in MfP classes is letting go and trusting your instincts. There is nothing to do, nothing to prepare. There is no product. All there is to do is showing yourself, being clear and present. See what happens when you do what Taoists and Zen masters call 'sitting quietly and doing nothing'. Meaning: sitting quietly and listening deeply into the silence. You sit there and listen to the sounds coming from your breath. This breath is our magic, our connection to eternity.*»

There is no more accurate way to express it. Suddenly, it doesn't matter anymore how much freedom lies in the improvisation. It is only about diving into the silence and letting the music that develops surprise you. In this spirit, I wish you all the courage and openness to dive into this adventure again and again.

André Renold

## Outlook

### Region Zürich

#### EARS for music

with Esther+André  
Renold-Schneider

January 20, 2018, 10-17 h  
Singsaal Heiget, Fehraltorf  
[www.earsformusic.ch](http://www.earsformusic.ch)

### Region Oberaargau

#### Impro Veranstaltungen Langenthal

with Michaela Röllin  
and Anna Eichenberger

[www.musicforpeople.ch](http://www.musicforpeople.ch)  
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