

Contingent Encounters

Improvisation in Music and Everyday Life

Contingent Encounters offers a sustained comparative study of improvisation as it appears between music and everyday life. Drawing on work in musicology, cultural studies, and critical improvisation studies, as well as his own performing experience, Dan DiPiero argues that comparing improvisation across domains calls into question how improvisation is typically recognized. By comparing the music of Eric Dolphy, Norwegian free improvisers, Mr. K, and the Ingrid Laubrock/Kris Davis duo with improvised activities in everyday life (such as walking, baking, working, and listening), DiPiero concludes that improvisation appears as a function of any encounter between subjects, objects, and environments. Bringing contingency into conversation with the utopian strain of critical improvisation studies, DiPiero shows how particular social investments cause improvisation to be associated with relative freedom, risk-taking, and unpredictability in both scholarship and public discourse. Taking seriously the claim that improvisation is the same thing as living, *Contingent Encounters* overturns longstanding assumptions about the aesthetic and political implications of this notoriously slippery term.

Dan DiPiero is Lecturer of Comparative Studies at the Ohio State University.

CONTINGENT ENCOUNTERS

**IMPROVISATION
IN MUSIC AND
EVERYDAY LIFE**

DAN DIPIERO

**SAVE 30% AT
PRESS.UMICH.EDU
WITH PROMOTION CODE
UMF22**

HARDCOVER 978-0-472-13315-4 | \$80

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK.



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS

Order at www.press.umich.edu or 800.621.2736