



Oscar Peterson
Deep Thinking Activity

(After Watching Video link “Oscar Peterson - Hymn to Freedom”)

Jazz uses a lot of *improvisation* which means that musicians make up their music on the spot as they are playing. Oscar was a master at improvising on the piano. The video clip of him playing “Hymn to Freedom” is a good example of this.

1) Describe how Oscar uses improvisation in his piano performance of “Hymn to Freedom”. (Hint: Can you hear the melody all the way throughout? If yes, is the melody the same each time?) What do you notice about his hands?

2) Do you enjoy listening to Oscar’s piano playing? Why or why not?

3) What is different about this music and other music you are familiar with?