



Workbook: Flow, Gesture & The Musical Line

Masterclass 2 with Douglas Finch

Introduction: Beyond the Notes

In Masterclass 2, we stop thinking about "right" and "wrong" notes and start thinking about **energy, shape, and movement**. This workbook is your guide to bypassing the analytical brain and entering the "River" of spontaneous music.

1. The Pen Game (Visual Improvisation)

Exercise: Translating Ink to Sound

The Concept: A line isn't just a drawing; it's a set of instructions for your hands.

- **Verticality = Pitch:** Higher on the page = higher on the keyboard.
- **Horizontal Flow = Time:** How the line moves from left to right.
- **Texture = Touch:** A jagged, sharp line = staccato/accents. A smooth, looping curve = legato.

Your Task:

1. Open the **Gesture Line Generator** (on the blog post).
2. Choose one hand only.
3. Improvise for 60 seconds, following the line exactly as it appears.
4. **Rule:** Do not look at your hands. Keep your eyes on the "Visual Score."

2. The High-Energy Surge (The 30-Second Explosion)

Exercise: Breaking the Laws of Physics

The Concept: Sometimes you need to "overload" the system to stop the inner critic from talking.

Your Task:

1. Set a timer for **30 seconds**.
2. Play as fast and as "messy" as possible. Use the whole keyboard.
3. Focus on the **physical sensation** of speed and weight, not the harmony.
4. **The Stop:** When the timer hits zero, stop instantly. Hold the pedal. Listen to the resonance.

3. The Anatomy of Decay (Overtone Meditation)

Exercise: Deep Listening

The Concept: Music doesn't end when you hit the key; it begins in the resonance that follows.

Your Task:

1. Play a single low **C** or **F** with the sustain pedal down.
2. Close your eyes.
3. Listen for the "bloom." Can you hear the hidden notes (overtones) inside that one sound?
4. Wait 15 seconds before playing a second note that "responds" to the first, but it must be in the harmonic series.

4. Mapping Your Flow: The Visual Storyboard

Exercise: Pre-Composition for Improvisers

The Concept: Before you play, draw the "shape" of your improvisation.

Drawing Box (Grab a piece of paper):

- **Use multimedia to apply your techniques**

Now Play It: Follow your moving visual with your hands (specific apps and techniques are in the course).

5. The River Analogy: Checklist for Flow

Before every session, run through these three mental shifts:

- **I am not the creator; I am the observer.** (Step into the river).
- **My body knows more than my theory.** (Trust the kinetic movement).
- **Silence is a canvas, not a gap.** (Let the overtones breathe).

Next Steps:

To fully understand and to benefit from the 10 mini-apps:

Join the full Masterclass with Douglas Finch:

[Start Your Piano Improvisation Journey Here](#)