

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Research Output Prize**  
**for the Dean's Research Fund 2021/22**

**Brief Introduction of Awardee's  
Research Output/Publication and Future Research Development**

<b>Awardee (Dept):</b>	<u>Dr Thibeault Matthew Doran, Associate Professor (CCA)</u>
<b>Publication/Research Output Title/project:</b>	<u>Aebersold's Mediated Play-A-Long Pedagogy and the Invention of the Beginning Jazz Improvisation Student</u>

A. *Briefly introduce your research output/publication for which you have received the prize.*

My output, "Aebersold's Mediated Play-A-Long Pedagogy and the Invention of the Beginning Jazz Improvisation Student," published in the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, covers the history of one of the most consequential learning technologies: the jazz Play-A-Long. Based on a set of oral histories with Jamey Aebersold and others who pioneered and refined the Play-A-Long form, I document how the Play-A-Long helped to establish a set of stable ideas for what a beginning jazz musician should be at a time where improvisation pedagogy was in its infancy. The work documents how repeated listening, the concept of chord-based scales, the applied process of learning by soloing, and the arranging of material from simple to complex took place from the late 1960s to the present. I also document Aebersold's debt to Black music theory and pedagogy through the ideas of George Russell and David Baker, which helps to further establish the contributions of Black musicians.

B. *How you used/will use your prize and perhaps its usefulness to your research development?*

I plan to purchase a new laptop computer for teaching and research purchases, one capable of using and supporting use of Play-A-Long materials in class demonstrations and workshops. I also plan for an overseas trip, with the remainder of time to be used for student research assistance.

C. *Expected research outcomes/outputs/impacts arising from this prize.*

I expect to continue to document the Play-A-Long as a tool for learning to help those promoting the teaching of musical creativity and improvisation. I plan to produce a subsequent study on the aesthetics and pedagogy of the Play-A-Long form, which I hope to submit within this year to a top journal in music education.