



# CRAFT IN AMERICA

HISTORY AND IMPROVISATION: MAKING AMERICAN MUSIC EDUCATION GUIDE

## Discussion Questions

Watch the MUSIC episode segments featuring various musicians such as Joan Baez, Scotty Barnhart and Joseph Pereira and instrument makers such as Casey Kamaka and Tony Ellis and answer the questions below..

“We play the same songs but the solos are different every night. The form is the same, but the improvisations are what is really what makes that music what it is...Jazz is about being creative, all the time.”  
– Scotty Barnhart

1. Do you play an instrument? If yes, which instrument(s)?
2. What is the oldest form of communication?
3. What is a maker space?
4. What are the connections between American music and American history?
5. Which family has been making ukuleles since 1916?
6. What kinds of materials are used to make a guitar and/or ukulele?
7. What is a minstrel show? Why does Rhiannon Giddens think it's important to know about the musical forms of a minstrel show?
8. How do musicians have connections with their instruments?
9. If you were to play an instrument what would it be and why?
10. What would be your personal connection to the instrument?