



LISP, Jazz,  
Aïkido

Didier Verna

# LISP, Jazz, Aïkido

## Three tales of the same story

Didier Verna

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# My philosophy of life

LISP, Jazz,  
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- **Beauty:** being able to evolve comfortably within a set of constraints, which begins with accepting their existence.
- **Fun:** being able to break those constraints at will, and then going back to them at will.
- **Unification:** drawing bridges between (*a priori*) unrelated domains, in the search for the essence of all things.



# Where is the beauty ?

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- **LISP** Writing code in any language can be beautiful, provided you know how to adapt your own ideas to the language's constraints.
- **Jazz** Playing a song in any kind of music can be beautiful, provided you know how to adapt your own ideas to the music's constraints.



# Where is the fun ?

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- **LISP** You can adapt the language to your own ideas instead of just having to adapt your own ideas to it, hence effectively breaking the rules of ordinary languages (“programmable programming language”).
- **Jazz** Improvisation (the essence of Jazz), lets you adapt the music to your own ideas instead of forcing you to adapt your ideas to it, effectively breaking the rules of ordinary music.



# Unification

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- **LISP** Because it's a meta-language, LISP is imperative, procedural, functional, object-oriented, declarative, anything you want.
- **Jazz** Because Jazz is not a kind of music, but a way to address all kinds of music, in Jazz there is jazz, classical, pop, rock, hard-rock, rap, electro, anything you want.



# Conclusion

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## The Tao

```
(setq *lisp* (make-instance 'my-phi-of-life))  
(setq *jazz* (make-instance 'my-phi-of-life))
```

- Do you love Jazz ?
- Then, you should program in LISP.
- Otherwise, you are **wrong**.
  
- Do you already program in LISP?
- Then, ...



# Perspectives

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