

“THEORETICAL BASES OF GUITAR IMPROVISATION IN CONTEMPORARY JAZZ”

Book, based on defended dissertation work

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The book proposes a system, combining the principles of jazz theory with technical skills for guitar and is constructed in a manner which will help the building of theoretical knowledge for jazz musicians. The subjects, discussed in the book, take in consideration the dynamics of the modern musical culture and the contemporary approaches in guitar teaching. It contains information, related to the main improvisation principles during guitar playing in the field of contemporary jazz. The major scales and their modes, chords and the principles for their constructions, harmonic progressions and structures are presented in systematical manner. The genre and stylistic aspects, technical and interpretation issues, related to jazz guitar technique as well as a wide range of instrumental skills for guitar are described in details. Methods for teaching of contemporary jazz guitarist are developed.

The information, related to the improvisation in the jazz music is too scarce in the Bulgarian musical literature. This is one of the main reasons why the book will be useful both for students and professional musicians.

THE GUITAR AS A PART OF THE BLUES MUSIC IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Scientific publication

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Summary/Abstract:

In my article “The guitar as a part of the blues music in the 20th century” I have done an analysis of the most characteristic features of the use of the guitar in the blues music. Blues is one of the most important sources of jazz. It is a prime contribution to many directions of the popular music genres, including reflecting on guitar playing. No other major musical genre is as tied to one particular instrument as the blues is to the guitar. The current publication presents aspects about variety of different blues styles of the 20th century. It contains information about historical facts related to the evolution of the blues guitar and focus on names of most popular blues guitarists, analysis of audio and video recordings.

THE HARMONIC MINOR IN JAZZ MUSIC

Scientific publication

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Summary/Abstract:

Jazz music is an art form, not responding one and the same version of a piece over centuries, but deals with improvisation and innovations. So new musical material

can be derived simply by analyzing of the harmony and assign the correct chord scales. The harmonic minor is used a lot in jazz music.

This report contains information about the modes of the harmonic minor scale and the relationship with most common chord progressions like minor II-V-I. I have done an analysis of the differences between the definitions in relation to the harmonic minor in jazz and classical theory. Clarifying the terminology, related to jazz-performing guitar specifics, is an important element not only in the musicological studies. The analysis of improvisational scales, combined with the knowledge about them in advance and their deep studies, would contribute to release the improvisation and creativity invention of the performers.