THE IMPROVISATIONAL EAR
A Framework for Conversational Improvisation
By Hue Blanes
IS MUSIC A CONVERSATION?

EVERY PERSON WHO SPEAKS WITH THEIR THROAT IS SINGING A MELODY IN THEIR INTONATIONS.

Jason Moran
How can musicians build improvisational musical language through the study of speech?

What are some effective methods of transcribing practice that will develop the musical ear?
SPEECH AS A PLATFORM FOR IMPROVISATION

Personal interest in the various inflections and tones in the act of speaking

Evidence suggests strong connection between speech and music

Lack of resources about the improvisational musical possibilities of speech
METHODOLOGY

- Literature review
- Interviews
- Surveys
- Discussion
- Transcribe
- Analyse
- Harmonise
- Compose
- Practice
HUE BLANES WITH JASON MORAN

BLANES:

UM... SO YEAH LIKE I JUST I GUESS I'M JUST TRY NA ASK YOU KNOW WHO... 'WHO DO YA WHO DO YA TRANSCRIBE AND AND A ME...

"BANG"

MORAN:

SURE

KEYBOARD NOISE

MAYBE EVEN GOES RIGHT INTO THE JAZZ AS WELL AND IF YOU STILL YOU STILL TRANSCRIBE SOME SAXOPHONES

BASS JUST TO SAY LIKE WHO WHO DO YOU AH WHO ARE YOU INTERESTED IN N' N' WHO DO YOU WANNA LEARN FROM?

MORAN:

YEAH I MEAN I'M STILL TRANSCRIBING I MEAN RIGHT NOW I'M TRANSCRIBING... I'M (BREATHE)

SONGS ABOUT HIS UM... COMPOSER WHO WAS A ROUND A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AND FOUGHT IN THE

WORLD WAR ONE... HIS NAME IS JAMES REYSE...
SPEECHES PERFORMED TODAY

RATNAM, ‘MORELAND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS’

TRUMP MEDLEY, ‘INAUGURATION’

JFK ASSASSINATION, ‘WALTER CRONKITE SPEAKS’

MARTIN LUTHER KING, ‘I HAVE A DREAM’
# The Speech Transcription Process – Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1. Segmented listening</th>
<th>writing</th>
<th>2. Repetition ear</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading</td>
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<td>4. Singing</td>
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<td>5. Real time self-transcription</td>
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TRANSCRIPTION ANALYSIS
METHODOLOGY

Step 1
Find the median and average note of any grouping scheme.

Step 2
Locate any final key points about what might make this speaker different from others.

Step 3
Analyse any similarities or differences from each phrase to the next.

Step 4
Analyse interesting, musical points about the speakers use of melodic intervals.

Step 5
Identify the melodic contour of the transcription.
APART FROM ALL OF THIS, WHAT DID THIS ROMAN EVER DO FOR US?

Noel Pearson on Gough Whitlam
CASE STUDY 3 – Noel Pearson, Leigh Sales, Paul Keating

What did this Roman ever do for us?

C A G# G F# F# G G F# F# F E♭ E D E♭ D♭ D A

1 10 9 8 7 7 8 8 7 7 6 4 5 3 4 2 3 -1.5

-1 1 2 3 3 4 4 5 6 7 7 7 7 8 8 8 9 10
HARMONISING SPEECH – FINDING A HARMONIC CONCLUSION

- Melody
- Bassline
- Middle Voices – adding chords and harmony

applause.

thank you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chord used</th>
<th>Scale degree of melody</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$E^{maj7}$</td>
<td>Major 3$^{rd}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F^{maj7} /C^#$</td>
<td>Major 3$^{rd}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Em^9$</td>
<td>Minor 3$^{rd}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E^{bm9}/B^b$</td>
<td>Perfect 4$^{th}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F^{#(sus4)}$</td>
<td>Perfect 4$^{th}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$E^{7(add13)}$</td>
<td>Major 2$^{nd}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F^{maj7}/C$</td>
<td>Tonic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$A^{b6}/C$</td>
<td>Major 6$^{th}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$B^{b13}$</td>
<td>Major 7$^{th}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F^{#-7}$</td>
<td>Minor 2$^{nd}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$D^7$</td>
<td>Perfect 5$^{th}$</td>
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A TRANSCRIPTION BECOMES A COMPOSITION

Form  Head (theme)  Solo (chord progression)  Head II (theme)
I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of Negroes and the sons of white shall be able to sit down together at the Table of Brothers. I have a dream that one day even little children will be able to join hands around the Table of Brothers.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight, and "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, the birthplace of a great civil rights leader, will be transformed into an extension of the freedom of the nation. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom and justice to reign in this land, the red hills of Georgia will be the place where we'll be able to live in peace with each other.

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight, and "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

I have a dream that one day the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering under the oppression of injustice, will be transformed into a nation where all children can live in peace and harmony. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom and justice to reign in this land, the red hills of Georgia will be the place where we'll be able to live in peace with each other.

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DEVELOPING THE IMPROVISATIONAL EAR

SPOKEN JAZZ LICKS

Pauline Hanson Phrase

'Down By The Riverside'

Bar 15-16

Bb7(#9)  F9(add13)

13th Degree  9th Degree
EXPERIMENTS TO DEVELOP THE IMPROVISATIONAL EAR

The Spoken Melodic Experiment “3 and 2 and”

Harmonic Experiment-All intervallic Dyads

Recording of Improvisations- Reading Banal Instructions
CONCLUDING REMARKS

Music is a conversation

Speech can be like any composition source
CONCLUDING REMARKS

Five transcription methods were studied.

Formula for speech analysis was developed.
CONCLUDING REMARKS

Experiments were created to benefit musicians.

Inherent, virtuosic, communicative, compositional, and improvisational benefits to studying speech patterns.
FUTURE

- Improved notation of musical speech
- Get piano players to use their voice
- Further transcriptions undertaken
spoken

speak your song don't sing a

long it's always finding time to be afraid to find the time communicate con
Questions and Discussion
Thanks for listening

Check out more information and videos at

- https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/393791/588232
- https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ry0uzro42g88oav/AADz4N3yxUimKcE76FLRBz7ja?dl=0
- www.hueblanes.com
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTbZ2n20SmbR9rlicGZ9z2w
THANK YOU