

The Improvisational Ear: How to build improvisational language through the study of speech

At the 2019 European Platform for Artistic Research in Music (EPARM) Hue Blanes will present the performance of 'Things That Have Been Said', an instrumental work that uses famous, and infamous recorded speeches from history as the source material to demonstrate how speech can be used to further develop composition and improvisational performance.

The 30 min performance will consist of an interplay between Blanes' voice, piano and speeches via laptop. It will explore several musical elements from both jazz and classical music.

In this performance the artist asks the question. Can the gap between music and speech be narrowed down so that the two entities can ultimately be indistinguishable?

This artistic research explores various transcription processes in jazz. In particular, the under-researched world of the transcription process of speeches and speech patterns, for the main purpose of developing and furthering jazz language to communicate more effectively through improvisation. Moreover, this research demonstrates how transcribing speeches and musical improvisations can develop the musical ear.

The performance aims to demonstrate how language, and speeches in particular, can be used as an important tool to develop the musical improvisational ear.

Some of the speeches that will be explored are:

1. Donald Trump Inauguration Speech
2. Wolter Cronkite announces the death of JFK
3. 'The Kings Speech' King of England announces World War II
4. Famous Australian Speeches including Noel Person at 21st Prime Minister Gough Whitlams Funeral



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Hue Blanes is an Australian jazz pianist, composer, and singer-songwriter. He has played in some of Australia's most prestigious arts festivals, where he has displayed versatility as a musician and singer. He is a winner of the 2018 Lucerne School of Music International Jazz Piano Competition, the 2017 PBS Young Elder of Jazz commission that premiered at the 2017 Melbourne International Jazz Festival. He is currently undertaking a master's at the Koninklijk Conservatorium in The Hague, Netherlands, exploring the musicality of language and how it can be used to further develop the improvisational ear.