

# On evocation of interpretation in jazz compositions

An artistic research project comprising of transcription and performance, situated in a contemporary performing-composer context

Thomas Aurlund Lossius, 10. December

**“How can the process of aurally transcribing compositions lead to reflections on interpretation for the performing composer, and how do jazz compositions afford the performer to co-create the artistic product through interpretation?”**

- Jazz interpretation [Levinson, 2013]
- Jazz based aural imitation method [Solli et al., 2021]
- The role of the performing composer
- Affordance [Gibson, 1979] [Reybrouck, 2012]

# Interpretative affordance

How do jazz compositions afford musicians to co-create the artistic product?

- Existing academic study
  - Example for drums [Cooper, 1996, p. 234]
- Mapping tacit knowledge through transcription [Polanyi, 1958]
- Personal experience

## Notation For Drums



This drum notation is specific. It prescribes, very specifically, what the drummer should play.



This drum notation is less specific. It describes the temporal feel of the section of music. A drummer would then create a part which incorporates the feel, but would not limit the performance to the actual notation. This notation would likely be featured in a solo section where the ensemble was less active, or not playing at all.



This type of drum notation is descriptive. The information in the part is describing what is happening in the ensemble and where. The drummer can then construct a part which complements these ensemble figures.

# Method

- 1) Transcription
- 2) Performance
- 3) Analysis

## Keynote

Bokani Dyer

Lead Sheet

**A** Uptempo Swing

5

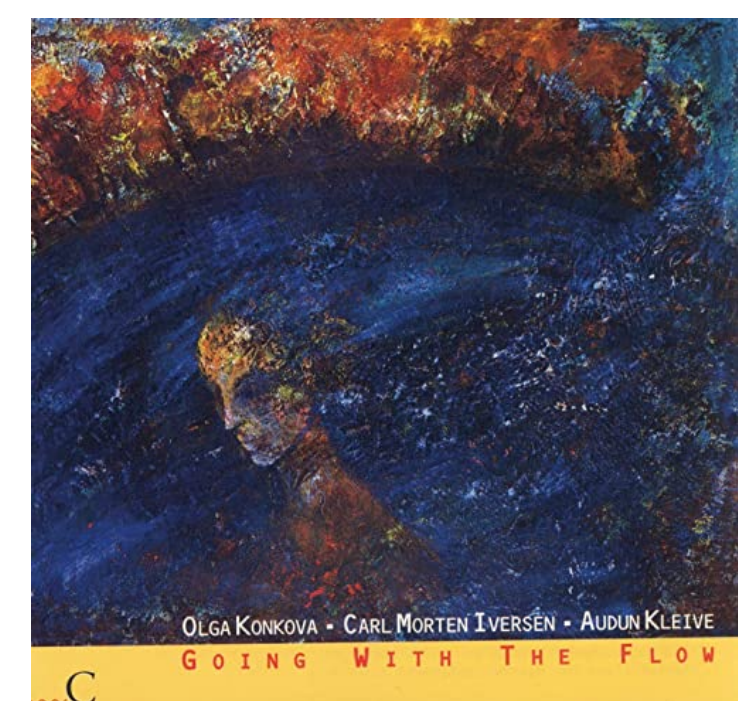
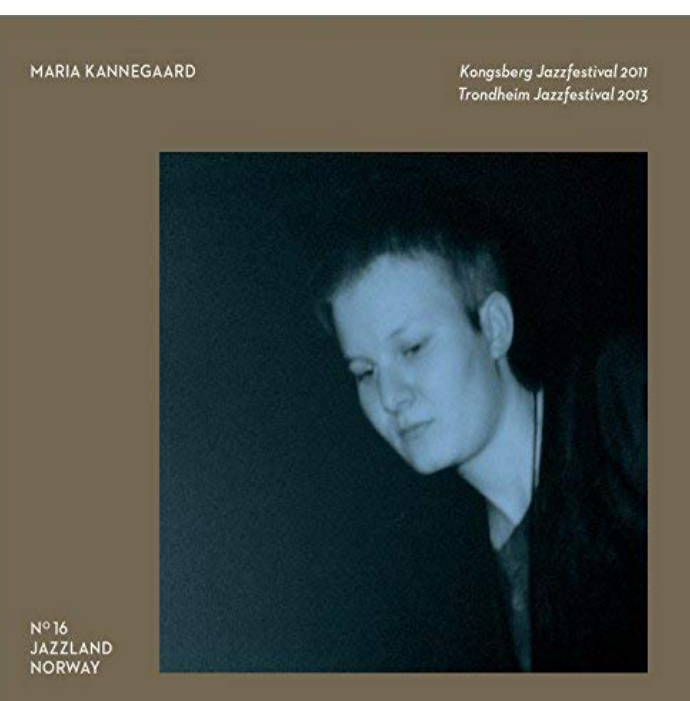
9

13

16

# The compositions

- Nandi's Suite (1st movement) - Ndabenhle Zulu (South Africa)
- LAL (Lee Ann Ledgerwood) - Ron McClure (USA)
- Grenseløs Grense - Marie Kannegaard (Norway)
- Quiet Joy - Marie Kannegaard (Norway)
- Going With the Flow - Olga Konkova (Norway)
- Keynote - Bokani Dyer (South Africa)



# Transcription

## How do I transcribe the compositions?

- Assessing what is composition or interpretation
  - A phenomenological, auto-hermeneutical approach [Gorichanaz, 2017]
- Detailed transcription with digital aids
- Deciding form of sheet and finalising

Going With The Flow

Detailed version

Olga Konkova

Piano

♩=110

Measures 1-4 of the piano score. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 110. The music is in common time (C). Measure 1 has a complex chordal texture. Measures 2-4 continue with similar textures, featuring many accidentals.

Pno.

Measures 5-8 of the piano score. Measure 5 starts with a new key signature of one sharp (F#). The texture continues with complex chords and moving lines in both hands.

Pno.

Measures 9-12 of the piano score. Measure 9 continues the key signature of one sharp (F#). The music features dense chordal textures and some rests.

Pno.

To Coda

Measures 13-16 of the piano score. Measure 13 changes the time signature to 3/4. The music concludes with a Coda section, indicated by the 'To Coda' text and repeat signs.

Going With The Flow

Olga Konkova

Piano

♩=100-110

Gmaj7(#5) Dmaj7(#11) Bbmaj7(#5)

Measures 1-2 of the piano score. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 100-110. The music is in 4/4 time. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Pno.

3 Db%9 Cmaj7(#5) F/E Fmaj7(#5)

Measures 3-4 of the piano score. Measure 3 changes the time signature to 5/4. Measure 4 changes to 2/4. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Pno.

5 Fm(maj9)/Ab Bb/C E/D F#maj7(#11)

Measures 5-6 of the piano score. Measure 5 changes the time signature to 3/4. Measure 6 changes to 4/4. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Pno.

7 Bm11 Fmaj7(sus2)/B Bm11 F#m9 Bm11 Em9 Bm11 F#m9 Bm11

Measures 7-10 of the piano score. The music is in 4/4 time. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Pno.

11 D(add9) Db(add9)

Measures 11-12 of the piano score. The music is in 4/4 time. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Pno.

13 Emaj7(sus2) E/F# Gmaj7/A Ebmaj7/F Dmaj7/E

Measures 13-14 of the piano score. Measure 13 changes the time signature to 3/4. Measure 14 changes to 4/4. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Pno.

15 Et245/C# To Coda! Dt245/C

Measures 15-16 of the piano score. Measure 15 changes the time signature to 3/4. Measure 16 changes to 4/4. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Pno.

17 F#(add9)/A# Am13 Em9

Measures 17-18 of the piano score. Measure 17 changes the time signature to 3/4. Measure 18 changes to 4/4. Chords are indicated above the staff.

2

19 Bm11 Em Bm11 Em9 Bm11

Pno.

Measures 19-21 of the piano score. Measure 19 changes the time signature to 4/4. Measure 20 changes to 2/4. Measure 21 changes to 3/4. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Pno.

22 Bbm7(b6) Ebm11 D.C. al Coda

Measures 22-23 of the piano score. Measure 22 changes the time signature to 4/4. Measure 23 changes to 3/4. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Pno.

26 Dt245/B F#(add9)/A# Bb7(b13)

Measures 26-27 of the piano score. Measure 26 changes the time signature to 3/4. Measure 27 changes to 4/4. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Pno.

28 Ebm11

Measures 28-31 of the piano score. Measure 28 changes the time signature to 3/4. Measures 29-31 are whole rests.

Solos

32 D7(sus4) Dmaj7(#5)

Pno.

Measures 32-35 of the piano score. Measure 32 changes the time signature to 3/4. Measure 33 changes to 4/4. Measures 34-35 are whole rests.

Pno.

36 Abm9 Gmaj7(#5) B(add4)/F# Eb13(b9) Am9

Measures 36-39 of the piano score. Measure 36 changes the time signature to 3/4. Measure 37 changes to 4/4. Measures 38-39 are whole rests.

Pno.

40 Cm11 /Bb Fmaj7 C#7alt.

Measures 40-43 of the piano score. Measure 40 changes the time signature to 3/4. Measure 41 changes to 4/4. Measures 42-43 are whole rests.

Pno.

44 Bm11 F#m11 Bm11 F#m11

Measures 44-47 of the piano score. Measure 44 changes the time signature to 3/4. Measure 45 changes to 4/4. Measures 46-47 are whole rests.

# Rehearsals

- Withholding original recordings from musicians
- Methods: Demonstrating, slow tempo, repetition, etc.
- Instructing to interpret creatively
- Keeping composition intact



Grenseløs grense

Maria Kannengaard

♩=70

Piano

Dm11 C6/E

5

Pno.

Em(b6)/G Dm6/F

9

Pno.

Cmaj7/E F(#11)/A

13

Pno.

C(add9)/D

15

Pno.

C(add9) C(add9)/E

Nandi's Suite (part 1)

Ndabo Zulu

♩=130-135

**A** Fm11

Piano

2 **B** Fm11

Mel.

4

Mel.

Pno.

7 **C** Fm11

Mel.

10 **D**

Mel.

14 **E**

Mel.

14 C(add11) Eb%9 Dbmaj7(#11)

14 x4, last time rit.

14 **F** C7(sus4)

**G** A tempo

17 N.C.

Pno.

**H** Swing

18

Mel.

**H** Swing

Continue sim.

Pno.

21 **I**

Mel.

24 **J**

Mel.

30 **K**

Mel.

**L** Straight

33 N.C.

Mel.

Pno.

35 **D**bmaj7(#11) Eb%9 N.C.

Mel.

Pno.

37 **D**bmaj7(#11) Eb%9

Mel.

Pno.

Solo form is worked out collectively

LAL (LEE ANN LEDGERWOOD)

RON McCLORE

A1

♩=170 SWING Eb% D7(#9) Db9(#11) Cm9 Ebmaj7(#5)/B E#9/Bb <sup>></sup>

5 Eb% D7(#9) Db9(#11) Cm9 Ebmaj7(#5)/B Abm7 Db7 Dm7(b5)

9 G7(b9) Am9(b5) D7(b9) Db9(#11) Cm9 Fm11 Emaj7(#11)

A2

13 Eb% D7(#9) Db9(#11) Cm9 Ebmaj7(#5)/B E#9/Bb Em7(b5)/Bb

17 Eb% D7(#9) Db9(#11) Cm9 Ebmaj7(#5)/B Am7 D7

B

21 Gm7 C7 Fm7 Bb7 Emaj7(#11)

25 Ebm11 Fm9(b5) Bb+7 Eb7(SUS4)

29 Bmaj7 Ebm/Bb Abm7 B(ADD9)/Gb Fm11 Emaj7(#11)

C

33 Eb Fm7 Fm11 Eb6/G Ab(#11) Ab Eb/G Fm7 Eb(SUS4)/Bb x3

Keynote

Bokani Dyer

A

Uptempo Swing

Lead Sheet

5

9

13

16

19

B

27

Last: To Coda

Solos on C and D, switch on que

C

D

42

Rubato

Going With The Flow

Olga Konkova

♩=100-110

Piano

Gmaj7(#5) Dmaj7(#11) Bbmaj7(#5)

Pno.

3 Db%9 Cmaj7(#5) F/E Fmaj7(#5)

Pno.

5 Fm(maj9)/Ab Bb/C E/D F#maj7(#11)

Pno.

7 Bm11 Fmaj7(sus2)/B Bm11 F#m9 Bm11 Em9 Bm11 F#m9 Bm11

Pno.

11 D(add9) Db(add9)

Pno.

13 Emaj7(sus2) E/F# Gmaj7/A Ebmaj7/F Dmaj7/E

Pno.

15 Et245/C# To Coda! Dt245/C

Pno.

17 F#(add9)/A# Am13 Em9

2

Pno.

19 Bm11 Em Bm11 Em9 Bm11

Pno.

22 Bbm7(b6) Ebm11 D.C. al Coda

Pno.

26 Dt245/B F#(add9)/A# Bb7(b13)

Pno.

28 Ebm11

Pno.

32 Solos D7(sus4) Dmaj7(#5)

Pno.

36 Abm9 Gmaj7(#5) B(add4)/F# Eb13(b9) Am9

Pno.

40 Cm11 /Bb Fmaj7 C#7alt.

Pno.

44 Bm11 F#m11 Bm11 F#m11

# Artistic claims for discussion

- “The more information is given on sheet music, the less freedom the musician is given.”
- “In a given composition, some musical elements will usually be very specific, while others will contrastingly be very open/varying.”

# Findings

- Transcription as a method
- Active interpretation
- Norwegian vs. South-African approach
- Ear training

**“How can the process of aurally transcribing compositions lead to reflections on interpretation for the performing composer, and how do jazz compositions afford the performer to co-create the artistic product through interpretation?”**

# Sources

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