

## *Abstract research paper*

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*Research supervisor:* Patrick Schenkus

*Title of research:* Goldberg's Variations: investigating Aaron Goldberg's improvisational style.

*Research Question:* How can I emulate characteristic devices from Aaron Goldberg's improvisational style and apply these to my own playing?

### *Summary of results:*

In this research paper four improvisational devices that Aaron Goldberg uses are analysed. Examples of these devices are taken from five transcriptions of improvised solo's on jazz standards (Con Alma, Fantasy in D, The shadow of your smile, (Un)stablemates and Perhaps) and from recordings where Aaron Goldberg functions as a leader. The devices are selected for their occurrence in (almost) all of the transcribed solo's and because they stand out and attract attention. Together they make up an important part of Aaron Goldberg's playing style. The four devices are: chromatic runs returning to one note, arpeggio's over the bar line, motivic development and lines in intervals. Following the analyses and some words on the (possible) origin of these devices (Aaron Goldberg didn't invent them, they are part of the jazz vocabulary and came forth out of the improvisational styles of musicians from the history of jazz) the research deals with the emulation of the devices and offers exercises which an improviser can do to apply the devices to his/her playing.

### *Bio:*

Jelle van der Meulen (1990) studied jazz piano from 2008 at the conservatory of Amsterdam where he received his bachelor's diploma in 2013. There he studied with Karel Boehlee, Rob van Bavel, Hans Vroomans and Kris Goessens. In 2015 he started his master studies at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague where he studied with Juraj Stanik and is currently studying with Wolfert Brederode. Jelle is the pianist of the hard bop band Bop This! and he leads his own piano trio. Jelle's playing is featured on three recordings so far, the albums 'Introducing' and 'Page Two' by Bop This! and on the album 'Out of Universe' by the Amstel Bigband of which Jelle was the pianist from 2011 until 2014.