



## *Dave Frank School of Jazz*

### FRANK ZAPPA NIGHT

Frank Vincent Zappa (1940 – 1993) is one of the icons of American contemporary music. An all-around cultural genius and visionary, Frank Zappa's music is a unique amalgam of styles combining doo-wop, rock, funk, jazz, blues, R+B and contemporary classical influences. As a composer, incredible guitarist, lyricist, master comedian, performer, bandleader, political activist, satirist and commentator on the human condition, Zappa created a huge body of work on an incredibly diverse and large scale. His last years were spent largely composing music for orchestra that rivals the music of Bartok, Stravinsky and Boulez.

#### PEACHES EN REGALIA

##### Elements of style

- 1) Tonal music with shifting key centers
- 2) Diatonic and cyclic harmonic motion
- 3) Composition consists of sections, each section presenting a unique combination of melodies, harmonies, and musical meanings.
- 4) Sections include anthems, Gothic melodies, Main themes, motifs and imitations, and happy melodies

##### Form

Diatonic anthem in A Major – slow moving melody for impact (A)  
Main theme in A Major with Gothic chord movement – I bIII sus2 IV sus2 I (B)  
Theme 2, imitated 3x up cycle 3 minor (IIm - I Maj) (C)  
Happy melody in E Major – E pentatonic melody with hammer-ons (D)  
Gothic melody 2 – C D Bb Eb Ab F G root movement, 1/16<sup>th</sup> melody (F)  
Anthem in F Major (G)  
Gothic melody in A (H)  
Main theme repeated out (J)

## WATERMELON IN EASTER HAY

### Elements of style

- 1) 9/4 rhythmic vamp C# A E G# E G# E B F# B E
- 2) Modal harmony A Lydian to E Major (same notes, different root)
- 3) Three scales for soloing – E pentatonic, E Major, and C# blues
- 4) Moving to held notes

End line on 1 – home

End on 2 – elevated

End on 3 – harmony

End on 4 – unresolved

End on 5 – least tension

End on 6 – hopeful

End on 7 – poignant and spiritual

- 5) Soloing in different registers
- 6) Fast line moving to slower line pause
- 7) Trills – 5-6, 1-2, 2 16 1

## ENVELOPES

### Elements of style

- 1) Atonal harmony with few tonal centers
- 2) Dissonant clusters in short musical phrases
- 3) Descending cluster movement
- 4) Composite sound – horns, winds and marimba creates complex musical texture
- 5) Conversation between atonal melodic phrases and percussive/same note answers
- 6) Imitated phrases
- 7) Steps and leaps
- 8) Rhythmic note groups
- 9) Different orchestras conversing

## STINKFOOT

### Elements of style

- 1) Modal Rock/funk
- 2) Triad vamp- I bVII I harmony
- 3) Three basic solo scales – C minor pentatonic (1 b3 4 5 b7 8), C Major pentatonic (123568), C mixolydian 123456 b7 8
- 4) Great video!

## BELTWAY BANDITS

### Elements of style

- 1) Starts with vamp and percussion
- 2) Mostly atonal composite melodies and 1/16<sup>th</sup> note rhythmic substratum patterns
- 3) 3 note sound composite – synth melody, high marimba and low synth parallel motion lines
- 4) Moving notes to held notes
- 5) Atonal clusters in non-diatonic wide and narrow intervals – minor 2nds, 4ths, major 7<sup>th</sup>, few thirds
- 6) Short musical phrases moving to longer musical phrases
- 7) Non-musical sounds