Dave Frank School of Jazz
In-person in NYC or Skype lessons worldwide

FOUR PILLARS #1– CHICK COREA MASTER CLASS WITH DAVE FRANK

Armando Anthony (Chick) Corea – (b.1941) is one of the great pillars in the building of modern jazz piano. His 50+ year musical career has been characterized by his mastery of every nuance of jazz and jazz piano, his joyful attitude of exploration and creativity that he brings to his seemingly endless string of remarkable performances and projects, an original and precise piano technique capable of an astonishing range of musical colors, and a total mastery of the art of performing and communicating through music. Chick's huge contribution to modern music includes original compositions that have become jazz standards, string quartets, works for electric and acoustic ensembles, children's songs, and much, much more. As an ambassador of jazz of worldwide stature, Chick Corea has been challenging, delighting and astonishing us for 5 decades. Chick is front and center in the pantheon of all-time great figures in jazz, and is still burnin today. I'm excited to share a bit of his solo playing with you in this master class, from a festival performance in France in 2011. We'll explore the various musical elements that make up this fabulous 7 minutes of spontaneous modern improvisation – a mere sliver in the life of one of our jazz heroes, the incomparable Chick Corea. There will be no 251's used in any part of this performance –haha!
Youtube address of performamce: http://youtu.be/yUcuiU1Qs88

STYLISTIC ELEMENTS:

This improv is a superb pastiche including, but not limited to: different piano touches, atonal, modal and cyclic harmony, and swing, free and Latin rhythmic feels . The general concept of this improvisation is to go in and out of an E modal center using various pianistic devices, various forms of non-tradition harmonies, and varied rhythms. What we're witnessing in this performance is an almost-impossible spontaneous combination of the highest musical science, pure feeling, and perfect pianistic execution. Chick is TOO MUCH, man!

From the beginning, here are some of the stylistic elements used included in this amazing improvisation:

10 drummers –atonal
Cycled harmonies –often cycle 2 or 3 –often ending on modal clusters
E Modal Anthems
Cyclic Harmonic moniker – b6 6 7 1
Ostinatos- one-hand and two-hand
Swing feel with in/out improvisation
Latin feel with Dorian improv and clusters
Spectrum chords
2-hand modal chords followed by hand-answering hand call and response chords
Semitic-like and made up scales
Rhythmic drumming on one/limited notes

ORGANIZATIONAL CONCEPTS

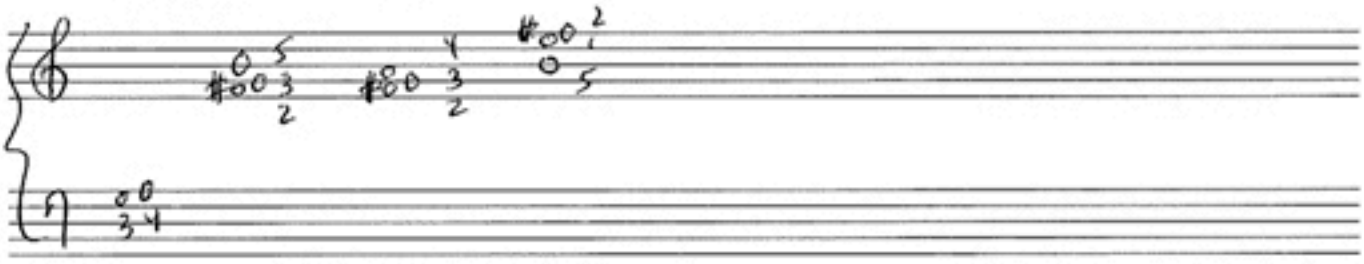
Start in a place that's new to the listener
Repeating small sections multiple times to breed familiarity within something essentially new.
Alternate calm and frenetic feels. Change one concept, change another at the same time for maximum contrast. Change feel/sections to appeal to the human/emotional element of the music.
"Wet" sound vs. "Dry" sound

"Home" feeling (E Modal Center) with various degrees of tension followed by increased tension (away from home) leading back "home".
Doubling/Changing rhythmic substratum to include more than one rhythmic feel
Switch accentuating either the percussive or string quality of the keyboard.
Switch"one flow" movement vs traditional RH-LH split sound.
Alternate between different harmonic systems – modal, atonal, cycled harmonies, etc..

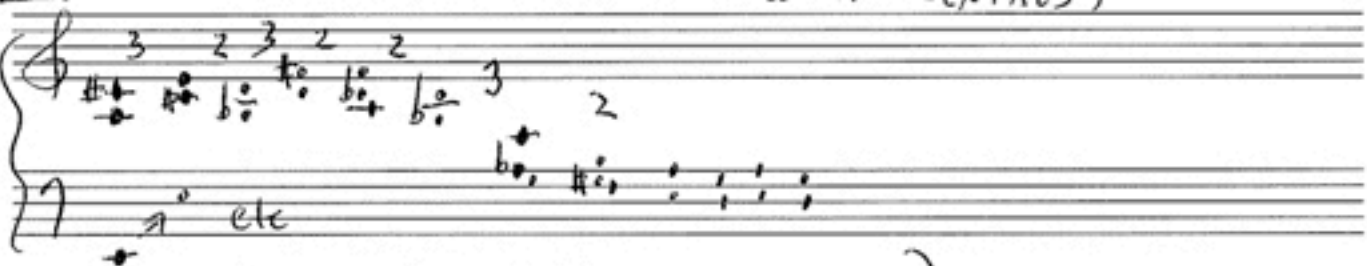
CHICK IN VEINEE 2012: IMPROV FLOW

Ten drummers/inside the piano playing to .25
Short E modal resolution at .25
Ten drummers .28
Cycle triads/E octave .37
Modal Theme .47
Harmonic moniker - .53
Ostinato - .59
Moniker – 1.05
Ostinato - 1.08
Ten drummers 1.09
Moniker 2.40
Blowings using modes and moniker chords 1.25 -1.42
Eb minor pentatonic LH octaves and RH 4ths etc. 2.04
E modal ostinato/clusters – 2.15
Modal in/out lines – 2.30
Moniker – 2.40
Modal in/out lines 2.44
Moniker – 2.52
Modal in/out lines – 2.58
Moniker -3.18
Latin feel blowing – 3.20
Spectrum chords- 3.32
Modal improv 3.44
Ten drummers – 4.00
Bigger modal – 4.08
Modal in/out blowing – 4.12
Two hand chords – 4.28
Split hands – 4.35
Modal Blowing 4.42
Ten drummers- 4.56
Cycled triads vs. static root 5.10
Modal blowing – 5.18
Moniker – 5.22
Semitic scales – 5.26
Moniker – 5.39
Cycled Triads – 5.46
Modal blowing slowing down – 5 :58
6ths melody – 6.06
Tremolos – 6.14
2 layer RH – 6.21
Ostinato slowing down and out 6.36

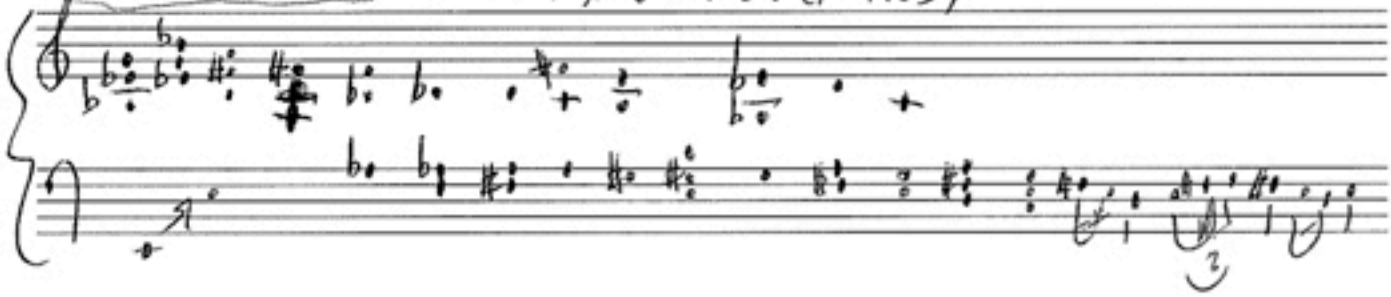
E MODAL CLUSTERS



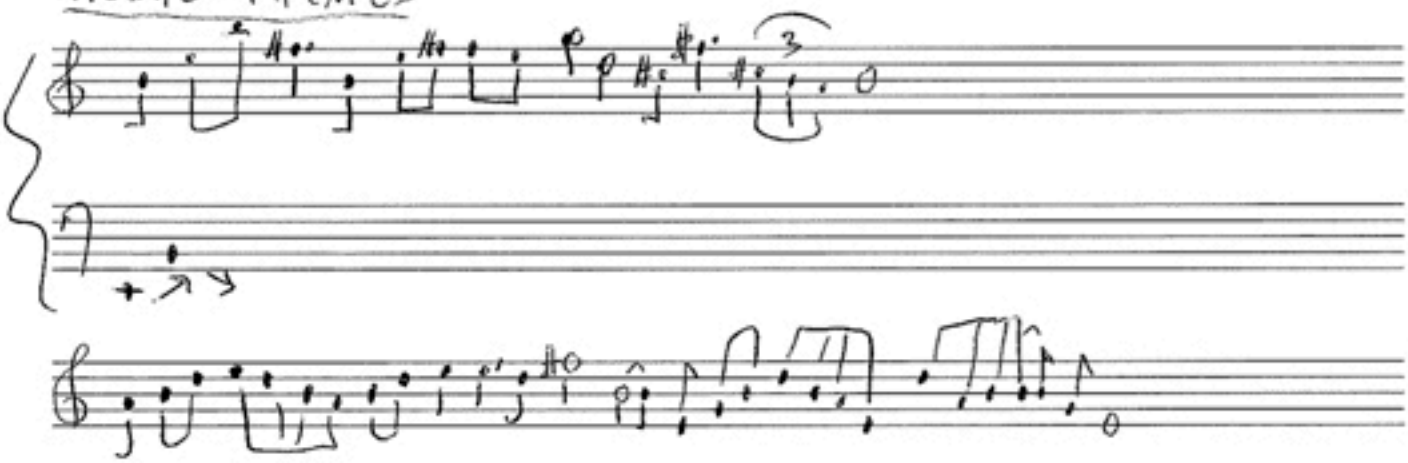
CYCLED INTERVALS / CLUSTERS (NO CARRIED ACCIDENTALS)



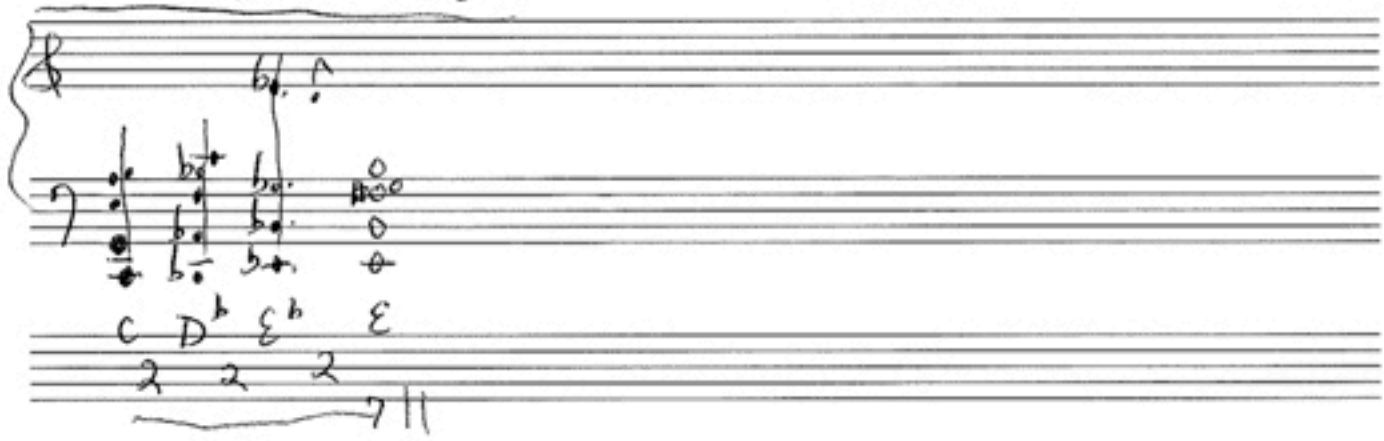
CYCLED TRIADS (NO CARRIED ACCIDENTALS)



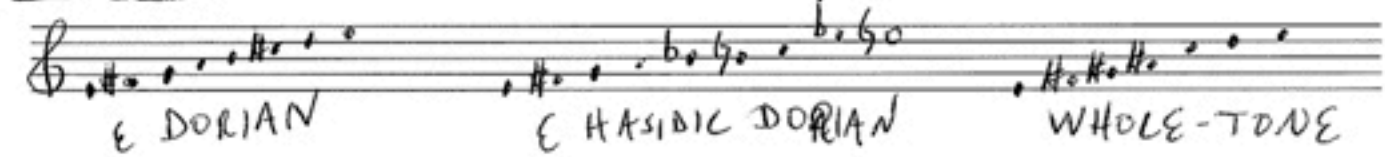
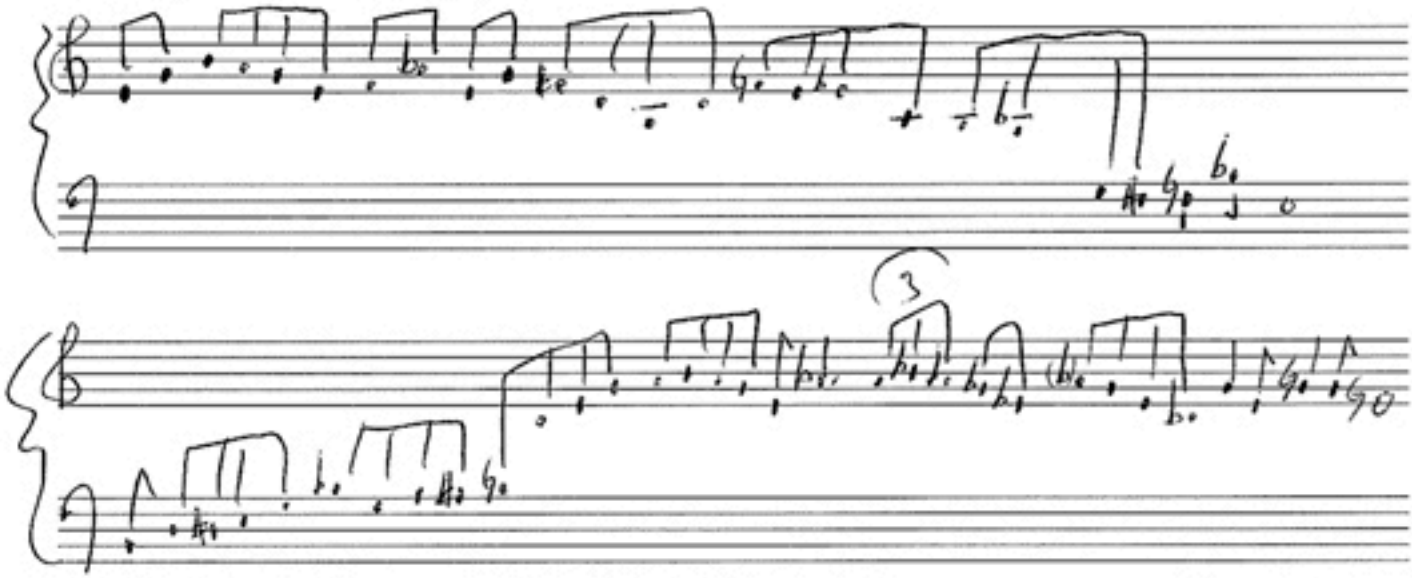
MODAL THEMES



HARMONIC MONIKER



MODAL INTERCHANGE



IN/OUT MODAL LINES