

**HARMONIC SPECIFICITY IN THELONIOUS MONK'S
IMPROVISATIONS**



IGOR SUCHKOV

**A THEMATIC PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF MUSIC
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

Copyright by Mahidol University

COPYRIGHT OF MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

HARMONIC SPECIFICITY IN THELONIOUS MONK'S IMPROVISATIONS

IGOR SUCHKOV 5638060 MSMM/M

M.M.

THEMATIC PAPER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: CHRISTOPHER SCHAUB, D.M.,
PAUL CESARCZYK, D.M.A.

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to examine Harmonic Specificity in Thelonious Monk's improvisations by revealing the variety and application of specific devices that he utilized to address harmonic progressions in selected recordings. The study was carried out by analysis of Thelonious Monk's improvisations focusing on identifying his use of harmonically specific devices and marking them with specially designed symbols. The analyzed improvisations were transcribed from a limited number of Monk's selected recordings, yet representing a variety in authorships, period, structural form, types of harmonic progression, and band personnel. The study identifies the methods that Monk used Harmonic Specificity to address harmonic progressions and the uniqueness of the resulting harmonic sound is defined by non-standard application of standard harmonic devices. These findings are potentially applicable in composing, arranging, or improvising.

KEY WORDS: THELONIOUS MONK / HARMONIC SPECIFICITY / HARMONIC
DEVICES / TRANSCRIPTION ANALYSIS / JAZZ PIANO

133 pages