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Expanded inspiration: metric improvisation and compositional tools in contemporary modal music

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Propositions Marina Lontou

1. Armenian oud players profoundly shaped the rhythmic environment of urban modal music in the 20th century, from the late Ottoman Empire through to the present time.
2. Metric modal improvisation is a practice that can be developed and performed as a generic type, distinct from non-metric types of modal improvisation.
3. Engagement with rhythmic practice can help strengthen skills in improvisation.
4. Compositional practice can be facilitated by and enhanced through the practice of metric modal improvisation.
5. Some of the bewilderment suffered by performers of historical genres can be resolved by composing music.
6. Emphasis on rhythmic practice within the study of melodic instruments can bring benefits at all stages of music education and conservatory training.
7. The world music performer today should be specifically trained to take a creative role that goes beyond the dutiful reproduction of older material.
8. “Comprovisation” is a useful term for describing the process of music-making using tools from both composition and improvisation.
9. Artistic research can provide tools, methods and a theoretical framework for performers and researchers of oral traditions wishing to explore new means towards personal expression.
10. Tulips smell better in Greece than in the Netherlands.