

Stylistic Traits of Wynton Marsalis' Improvisations

I have distilled Wynton's playing to the following list of general characteristics. These are by no means definitive and are primarily thought of as a jumping-off place to explore his solos more thoroughly.

1. Rhythmic displacement
2. Harmonic style-flat VI pentatonic, maj 7 on dominant, chromatic substitutions, the five chromatic extensions of the dominant chord.
(b9, #9, b5, b13, maj 7)
3. Odd note groupings
4. Blues
5. Vocal effects
6. Skayne Scale
7. Melodic construction (motivic and intervallic)
8. Tension resolution (melodic, harmonic and rhythmic and combinations..)
9. Unique intervallic leaps
10. Declamatory New-Orleanian Statements
11. Technique

1. Rhythmic displacement: (thank you, Tain...) placing of accents that shift emphasis of beat: triplets become duplets, triplets turned around, sextuplets become groups of 4, etc...



(Au Privave, ms. 185-187)



(I'm Confessin', ms. 33-35)



(Stardust, m. 27)

Au Privave

By Charlie Parker

Medium-fast Swing (♩ = 200)

1st CHORUS

2nd CHORUS

3rd CHORUS

4th CHORUS

Black Bottom Stomp

By Ferd "Jelly Roll" Morton

Fast New Orleans Swing (♩ = 260)

1st Chorus

The first chorus consists of 16 measures of music. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: C7 (measures 1-2), F (measures 3-4), C7 (measures 5-6), F (measures 7-8), C7 (measures 9-10), D7(b9) (measures 11-12), Gmi (measures 13-14), G#7 (measures 15-16). The piece concludes with a double bar line. A '3' with a slur indicates a triplet in measure 4.

2nd Chorus

The second chorus consists of 16 measures of music. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: C7 (measures 1-2), F (measures 3-4), C7 (measures 5-6), F (measures 7-8), C7 (measures 9-10), D7(b9) (measures 11-12), Gmi (measures 13-14), G#7 (measures 15-16). The piece concludes with a double bar line. A '3' with a slur indicates a triplet in measure 4.

END CHORUS

The end chorus consists of 16 measures of music. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: C7 (measures 1-2), F (measures 3-4), C7 (measures 5-6), F (measures 7-8), C7 (measures 9-10), D7(b9) (measures 11-12), Gmi (measures 13-14), G#7 (measures 15-16). The piece concludes with a double bar line. A '3' with a slur indicates a triplet in measure 4.

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