Transcription For Beginners

PianoGroove Live Seminar 4th Jan 2023



What is Transcription?

- The process of listening to a recording and working out the notes aurally
- Transcription should be part of your daily practice routine
- Start with just 15 minutes per day and revisit the same recordings

Why is Transcription Important?

- It's how we take our playing in our own direction based on the sounds that we like
- It teaches us the more subtle aspects and nuances of jazz performance
- In my opinion, it is the most effective and enjoyable way to learn improvisation

Useful Pointers Before Starting Transcription

- Create a playlist for each of your jazz tunes, add time stamps, <u>listen</u> and study
- Know the chord changes and form of the tune so you can follow along mentally
- Pick recordings with clear, crisp, high quality audio it will make your life easier!
- Discuss the points from <u>Jon's interview video</u> listen, identify what you like, choose things to transcribe just beyond your level, be patient and diligent with the task

Transcribe! & Other Transcription Software

- Transcription software is used to slow down and loop audio recordings
- Transcribe! has some other useful features which we will discuss
- Discuss other transcription options (ASD and other mobile apps)
- Show how to pull an .mp3 file into Transcribe! and explain controls:
 - o Slow down buttons and slider
 - o Volume and visual view sliders
 - o A/B Loop by clicking or by dragging
 - o View > "show chord guesses" and "show note guesses"

Beegie Adair Trio – 'In a Sentimental Mood'

- Beegie Adair's style, why I picked this recording, simple fills, clean audible audio,
- Start by listening through, play left hand voicings along with recording + solo
- Show a good place to start transcribing, and a bad place to start (subjective)
- Start with the clean and simple melodic fills
- Explain the "show chord guesses" function of Transcribe
- Fills and inner voices in A Section, passing chords, block chords,
- 1625 Fill in bars 18 and 19 an example of a line that you can repurpose
- 3rd-interval fill before moving back to final A Section
- Turnaround into improv section F major blues and A7 back to D- to start form
- Triad based improv lines mention similarities with Eddie Higgins
- 6th intervals alternating with 3rd intervals in improvised lines (interval training!)
- Arpeggio patterns, melodic minor scale, trills, and chromaticism