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Pat Metheny: Composing to Exploit the Sound of the Guitar

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Abstract

The study's objective is to relate the development of Pat Metheny's stylistic characteristics from his interpretation of jazz standards to their incorporation into his own compositions. Stylistic elements are established and a sample of his compositions are analysed to compare his solo style in standards with his compositional style.

Metheny is a recognised innovator in technique and uses a wide range of instruments in the guitar family, both traditional and radically new. The use of such instruments frees Metheny from some restrictions and the possibility that this freedom is a major influence in his improvisation and composition is remarked on.

There is scope for further work based on a wider sampling, and the methodology used in this study could probably be modified to focus on this objective.

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