

Klezmer Dissonance: Unlocking the Mysteries of Musical Energy

This new hands-on class will exhaust the gamut of specific hidden techniques of creating musical energy for both performers and arrangers. He will show when certain harmonies and stylistic gestures tend to weaken the momentum of a tune and how to remedy the 10 most common performance maladies, the main focus being on creating as much dissonance as possible in a performance.

The class will uncover a host of secrets used by master klezmer performers and teach ways of delaying harmonic changes, jumping and staggering entrances, creating intentional clashes between melody and accompaniment, superimposing foreign modal cells, using cross-rhythmic phrasing and much more.

The class will outline the history of dissonances in western classical and compare their mechanics to those found in eastern and central European folk music in order to show how contemporary klezmer music can regain its own specific laws of dissonance which may have suffered through the overuse of classical music dissonances.

The final aim will be for students to become fluent in recognizing each and every sensitive point of a melody and to solve a tune's specific energy demands intuitively with a thorough knowledge of its dissonant potential. The class will be geared toward advanced and intermediate players, but will benefit beginners as well.