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Improvising in the style of Olivier Messiaen:

MODE II

1. The OCTATONIC SCALE

The Octatonic Scale of the 2nd Mode is an eight-note scale which rises by Semitone, Tone, Semitone etc.

The 2nd Mode is one of Messiaen’s Modes of limited transposition: there are only three different transpositions of this mode possible, starting either on C, C# or D.

In Jazz, the same scale is called the Diminished Scale as it consists of two interlocking diminished seventh chords:

2. MODAL TRIADS

It is possible to establish a diatonic sequence of triads based on the Octatonic Scale:

Note: a 2nd inversion major triad is followed by a 1st inversion minor triad.

3. MODAL TETRADS

It is possible to establish a diatonic sequence of tetrads based on the Octatonic Scale:

Note: a 2nd inversion major triad with added tritone (#11) is followed by a dominant seventh chord (fifth omitted) with an added major sixth (13).
4. IMPROVISATION EXERCISES

**Meditation:**
left hand - held triads; right hand – short motifs based on Octatonic Scale.

Choir: Flute 4 + Nazard 2 2/3 + Trem.
Swell: Vox Celeste 8 + Salicional 8

**Toccata:**
Both hands – ascending triads (Mode 2); Pedal – long notes from Octatonic Scale.

**Bibliography:**