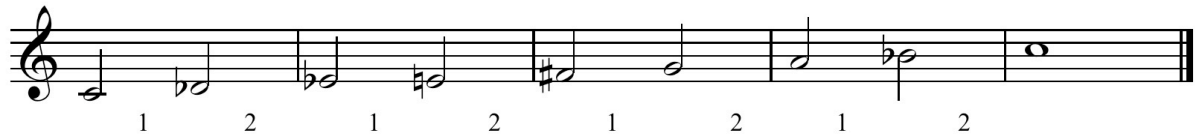


Ronny Krippner
Improvising in the style of Olivier Messiaen:
MODE II

1. The OCTATONIC SCALE



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

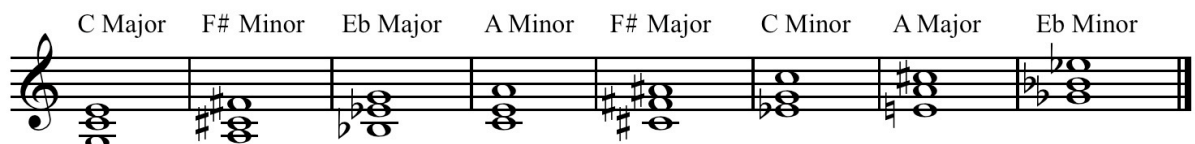
The 2nd Mode is one of Messiaen's **Modes of limited transposition**: there are only three different transpositions of this mode possible, starting either on C, C# or D.

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



2. MODAL TRIADS

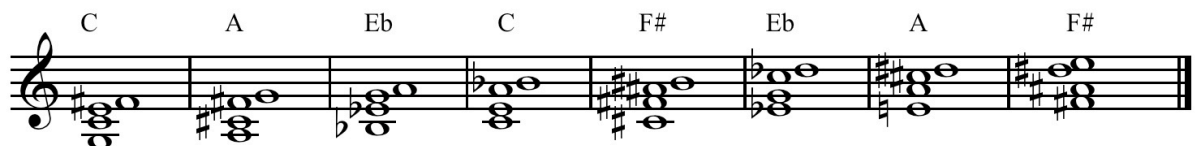
It is possible to establish a diatonic sequence of **triads** based on the Octatonic Scale:



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: Voix Celeste 8 + Salicional 8

Toccata:

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



Bibliography:

Stoiber, Franz Josef. *Gehörbildung – Tonsatz – Improvisation*. Regensburg: ConBrio Verlag, 1995.