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Realizations

Ben Schwendener, piano

Fuga III from Art of Fugue, BMV 1080 (1742)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Fugue 14 from The Well-Tempered Klavier, BMV 859 (1722)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Fuga I from Art of Fugue, BMV 1080 (1742)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

“Applying Modal analysis to Bach provides so many universal elements to create from ...”

A modal analysis of J.S. Bach’s Chorales, Cantatas, and Fugues from the perspective of the Lydian Chromatic Concept provides a rich collection of natural elements perfect for improvisational navigation. These ingredients make up and are available to everyone for the creation of musical languages in any style.

“These performances are entirely my own realization of Bach’s modal elements, of his profound relationship with music and nature: the ingredients he laid out I’m telling through my own journey.”

Composer and pianist Ben Schwendener sustains a unique voice in contemporary creative music and as an authority on George Russell's Lydian Chromatic Concept of Tonal Organization.

Schwendener recently published *Organic Music Theory* (Heights Music International, 2019), a perspective based on understanding universal musical elements provided by nature, used creatively for composition, improvisation and analysis. OMT presents a new direction in natural pedagogy and dialogue-based arts education. He has given lectures, workshops and seminars at universities and institutions internationally, and is on the faculty of the New England Conservatory and Longy School of Music of Bard College. He is also founder and director of Gravity Arts, Inc., a non-profit arts organization providing customized education and services for musicians, dancers, and interdisciplinary artists.

As touring artist, his groups include the Mobile Trio with drummer Kenwood Dennard and bassist Marc Friedman, LYRIC with singer Carley DeFranco, and collaborations with choreographer Angelo Dello Iacono and the Swiss dance company ADN Dialect.

He is currently working on a second volume, 'Applied Modal Analysis', a further expansion of OMT and responsible in large part for the realizations presented in this show.