

Four-Guidetones-Oleo

Date: September, 1986. I haven't seen Emily for over a year so I'm very happy to see her. I've just returned from a year studying abroad in England, where I was a big hit at the Oxford Guitar Society and showed everyone Jazz Minor scales and theory, which I had learned from Emily the year before.

Location: Emily's Apartment in Chelsea (West 22nd Street). It's me, Emily, and Humphrey the cat.

2:30 - We play the Miles Davis tune "Four" to warm up (See Real Book Scan). I play the melody and take the first solo. Emily takes the next solo. Very smooth. The second time around, she really takes off - she's flying and deep into when all of a sudden...the phone rings. You'll be as bummed as I was, but we pick it up again.

9:00 - We discuss soloing over Four. Emily shows me a nice Dorian fingering and a Dorian Arpeggio (the Bb minor arpeggio). I just love the way she throws chords into her single note soloing.

10:00 - She briefly shows me some scale shapes common to Charlie Christian's playing.

11:30 - "What this is Joel, is Hustling". That phrase just stuck with all these years and in my own playing, when I find myself "hustling", I smile and think of this moment.

14:00 - Emily suggests going up one scale/arpeggio and coming down the next.

15:30 - I work thru another solo over Four.

16:30 - Emily solos again.

18:00 - At the very end of the B section, Emily adds a really classic turnaround that isn't written in the Real Book chart. She shows it to me and asks if I'll remember it - I do. It's a I vi ii V progression and here it is:
Ebmaj7 / C7(b13) / F-9 / Bb7(b13)

19:30 - Emily solos a bit more.

21:00 - Emily takes a bluesy turn and starts throwing in some bluesy stuff.

21:30 - Emily teaches me the "Jazz" Blues Scale, which has a flat 5th in it.

22:00 - She demonstrates a few nice exercises and licks with the blues scale.

23:45 - The previous year, I spent 20 weeks backpacking through Europe, Turkey and North America, with a copy of "Together" by Emily and Larry Coryell, which I introduced to a lot of people. In those days before the internet, not everyone had the kind of access and exposure that they do today. I mention this briefly in passing.

24:00 - some George Benson type bluesy licks.

27:00 - a bunch of examples of playing over Bb minor

32:15 - Emily starts playing around with the Whole Tone Scale - playing it in fourths.

33:00 - Using a diminished scale.

35:00 - We discuss some new music theory that Emily is working on - playing over Dominant Sevenths without Jazz minors. She calls it a triadic approach - throwing triads on top of chords. Interesting to see how she was constantly pushing herself and her own knowledge.

40:00 - Seems like Emily is writing this out, but it has been lost.

43:00 - Emily shows me that the triads can be moved up a minor third. Then she does some single note soloing

using triads.

47:00 - Emily plays the tune "Oleo" for me (Rhythm Changes). We later do an entire lesson on this.

49:00 - We turn to Oleo in the Real Book. Emily writes a few chord substitutions and other notes on the chart (see accompanying pdf).

50:00 - As we are about to work on Oleo, Emily mentions Guide Tones. She thought that she had shown me Guide Tones earlier, but hadn't, so we talk about them.

51:00 - Explanation of Guide Tones

53:00 - Emily writes out the re-harmonized Bb Blues and we identify a guide-tone line.

54:00 - Emily plays Bb Blues and emphasizes the Guide Tone Line. She then solos using the Guide Tones. Notice how you can hear the chord changes implied by her single note soloing.

56:00 - Emily comps the Blues while I play the Guide Tone

58:30 - Emily solos over Bb Blues again, using Guide Tones so that you can really hear her making the changes.

60:00 - I give a try - not quite as smooth.

1:04:00 - Emily does some more soloing over with Guidetones over Oleo.

1:05:00 - Some Mixolydian licks and more soloing over Rhythm changes.

1:08:00 - I try soloing over Oleo.

1:10:30 - Emily solos over Rhythm Changes

1:11:00 - The phone rings and we end the lesson. Sounds like it was "Larry". Perhaps Larry Coryell?