Homer and Jazz . . .

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Graeme D Bird

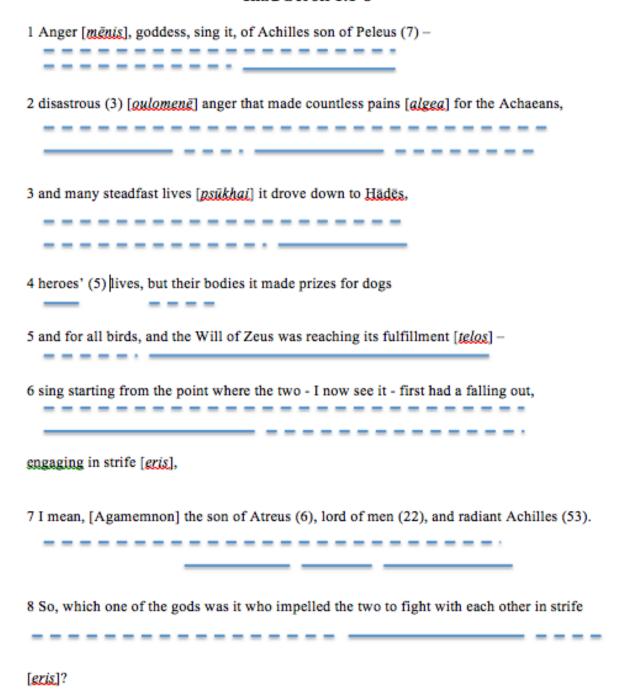
"Homer and Jazz: the song continues . . ."

ΙΛΙΑΔΟΣ Α

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Albert Lord, "The Singer of Tales"

Iliad Scroll 1.1-8



The Arming of Paris and Menelaus: 2 "versions"

First he (i.e. Paris) put the greaves around his legs,

fine ones, fitted with silver ankle-pieces.

Second he put on his breastplate about his chest,

of his brother Lycaon; and fitted it to himself.

And about his shoulders he threw his silver-studded sword

of bronze, and then his shield great and sturdy.

And upon his mighty head he put a well-made helmet

with horse-hair crest; and terribly did the plume nod from

above.

And he took a stout spear, which fitted his hands.

And likewise warlike Menelaus donned his battle gear.

First he (i.e. Paris) put the greaves around his legs,

fine ones, fitted with silver ankle-pieces.

Second he put on his breastplate about his chest,

of his brother Lycaon; and fitted it to himself.

And about his shoulders he threw his silver-studded sword

of bronze, and then his shield great and sturdy.

And upon his mighty head he put a well-made helmet

with horse-hair crest; and terribly did the plume nod from

above.

And he took *two stout spears*, *tipped with bronze*.

And likewise Menelaus donned his warlike armor,

His shield and shining helmet, and two spears

And fine greaves fitted with ankle-pieces,

And about his shoulders he threw his silver-studded sword.

"Degrees" of Improvisation

#1: embellishment or ornamentation: minor variations on the melody

#2: paraphrase: "a more subtle transformation [of precomposed material] in which original and additional notes blend into a new melody of homogeneous design." "The performer passes from interpreter to composer..."

#3: "harmonic improvisation": the improvised melody may not resemble the "original" melody, but it still follows the underlying harmonic structure. A listener with "good ears" can tell that the performer is "improvising over" Night and Day.

See Harvard Dictionary of Music; see also: Gregory Smith, Homer, Gregory, and Bill Evans? The Theory of Formulaic Composition in the Context of Jazz Piano Improvisation. Harvard Music PhD, 1983, chapter 2.

Night and Day - Improv #1



