



Performance Article

Improvisation of blues rock with electro-fretted violin

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Abstract

This research has been prepared as a performance article and a research article. Blues music and Blues guitarist and composer B.B. King, who has an unforgettable place in the history of music, performed improvisation with electro and draped violin. During the performance, the infrastructure of the "Chuss Music" Youtube channel titled "E Minor Blues Guitar Backing Track BB King Style" was used. 12 gauge blues chord patterns were used. With the improvisation performance of blues rock with Kesendere, electro pitch violin, He was awarded the "Western Music-String Instruments" award by the International Rast Music Congress and Music Awards. It is very difficult to find orchestras and groups for music performed in groups such as rock music, jazz music and pop music in some cases and regions. Unfortunately, the economic costs of the established orchestras make it difficult for these orchestras to have a long life. It is recommended to use computer-accompanied music infrastructure in the face of such difficulties.

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Introduction

Many types of music have emerged in the history of music. Some of these genres have lost their popularity, while others have reached larger audiences. One of these important music genres is the Blues. B.B. King is one of the leading composers and guitarists of blues music and one of the many names who have written his name in the literature with his unique style.

B.B. King

Riley B. King "B. B. King" is an American blues guitarist and composer. B.B. jewelry means "Blues Boy King" and finally B. Abbreviated as B. King. The famous musician opened his eyes to life in Mississippi on September 6, 1925 and died in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 14, 2015 (Danchin, 1998).

It is known that B.B. King had a difficult childhood and was employed by his family as an agricultural worker. His talent for music changed his destiny. King began playing guitar at an early age and first performed at local churches in Mississippi. As his love for music grew over time, King's career took off in the late 1940s and early 1950s, as he began chasing opportunities to play on larger stages. With the rising popularity of the electric guitar, King is known for his often used slide technique when playing his guitar. The slide technique has become very much identified with King and has become an important element that constitutes the characteristic sound of his guitar (Richardson, 1987).

His works such as "The Thrill Is Gone", "Live at the Regal", "Blues Boys Tune" and "Lucille" have gained great acclaim and success. B.B. King has received numerous awards for his contributions to blues music. The title "King of the Blues"

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is a tribute to his influence and contribution to his music. Today, B.B. King songs and techniques continue to be played by music lovers of all ages, all countries, and all levels (Jatmiko, 2010; Visé, 2023).

Blues Music

It is a musical genre that emerged in the mid-19th century to tell the difficult life stories of African-Americans, black slaves brought from Africa in the south of America. A new genre emerged as a result of the combination of rhythms of African culture with traditional melodies in America. It usually has 6/8 gauge number and 12 gauge chord structures. Pentatonic or blues range is frequently used in solo structure (Bennett & Dawe, 2020; Hoffmann, 2005; Steinfeld, 2016). Names such as Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Howlin' Wolf, Son House, Lead Belly, Asım Can Gündüz, Yavuz Çetin, Ferruh Sayın are examples of names who have achieved significant success and left great traces on blues music in history. When we look at the orchestras of these artists, electric guitar, bass guitar, drum are the most frequently used instruments. In addition, piano, keyboard, brass winds instruments were also frequently used. Blues music has influenced many types of musicians, instrumentalists and artists with its expanding audience of appreciation and has continued to be played with different musical instruments (Oliver, 1997).

12 Bars Blues Chord Structure

In blues chord structures, "1, 4, 5 (I, IV, V)" full cadence structure is frequently used. It belongs to the one-part song form. Musicians perform improvisational performances while repeating 12 measures. In Table 1, you can see the blues music chord structure with a major structure and in Table 2, you can see the blues music chord structure with a minor structure (Eck & Schmidhuber, 2002; Lewis, 2012; MisagiMusic, 2023).

Table 1. 12 Bars Blues Major Chord Structure

1.Bar	2.Bar	3.Bar	4.Bar	5.Bar	6.Bar	7.Bar	8.Bar	9.Bar	10.Bar	11.Bar	12.Bar
A7	A7	A7	A7	D7	D7	A7	A7	E7	D7	A7	E7

As can be seen in Table 1, although the tone is *La Major*, all of the chord structures are in the *Dominant 7* state. Instead of the *Amaj7* chord, which is the 1st degree of the first 4 measures scale, there is *A7* chord, instead of the *Dmaj7* chord, which is the 4th degree of the scale in the 5th and 6th measures, there is *D7* chord, which is the 1st degree chord again in the 7th and 8th measures, *E7* chord, which is the 5th degree in the natural state of the scale in the 9th measure, *D7*, which is the 4th degree in the 10th measure, *A7*, which is the 1st degree in the 11th measure, and *E7*, which is the 5th degree in the last measure.

Table 2. 12 Bars Blues Minor Chord Structure

1.M	2.M	3.M	4.M	5.M	6.M	7.M	8.M	9.M	10.M	11.M	12.M
Em	Em	Em	Em	Am	Am	Em	Em	Bm7	Am	Em	Bm7

M: Measure

Table 2 shows the Blues chord structure of the *Mi minor* tone. *Em* chord, which is the 1st degree of the scale in the first 4 scales, *Am* chord, which is the 4th degree in the 5th and 6th scales, *Em* chord, which is the 1st degree in the measure, *Bm7* chord of natural minor scale in the 9th measure, *Am* chord, which is the 4th degree in the 10th measure, 1st degree *Em* chord in the 11th measure, and *Bm7* chord, which is the 5th degree in the natural minor scale in the 12th measure. When the major and minor chord structures are examined, it is seen that the first 4 measures have the same ranking as the 1st degree chord, the 4th degree chord of the 5th and 6th measures, the 1st degree chord of the 7th and 8th measures, the 5th degree chord of the 9th measure, the 4th degree chord of the 10th measure, the 1st degree chord of the 11th measure, and the 5th degree chord of the 12th measure. There is no change in chord order as major or minor. However, due to the flexible and free structure of music, composers can use their own creativity to use new structures and change the course of the chord.

Pentatonic Scale

After the researches, it was determined that for the formation of the pentatonic scale, the "IV and VII" sounds in the major scale were made, and the "II and VI" sounds of the natural minor scale were made (Bennett & Dawe, 2020; Kesendere, 2022; Ricker, 1976; Zweifel, 1996).

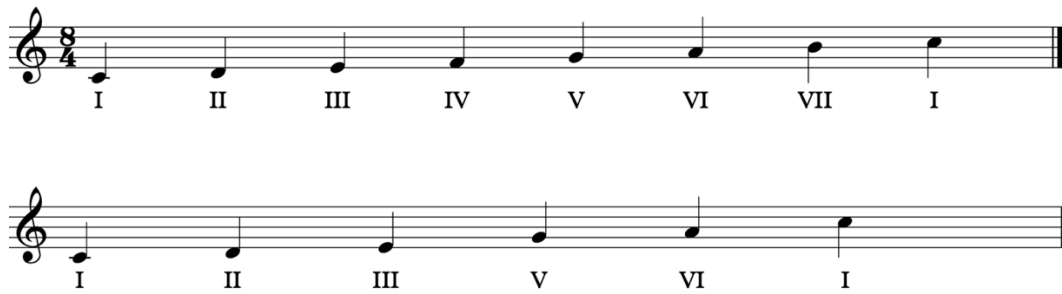


Figure 1. Major scale and major pentatonic scale

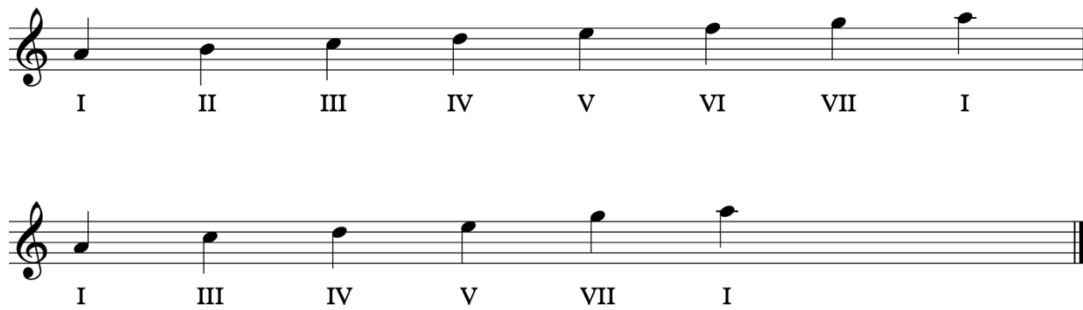


Figure 2. Natural minor scale and minor pentatonic scale

Blues Scale

After the researches, it was determined that the "II. and V." sounds in the pentatonic scale were half-pitched for the formation of the blues scale, and the "IV. and VII." sounds of the natural minor scale were half-pitched (Curry, 2015; Tallmadge, 1984; Witt, 2021).

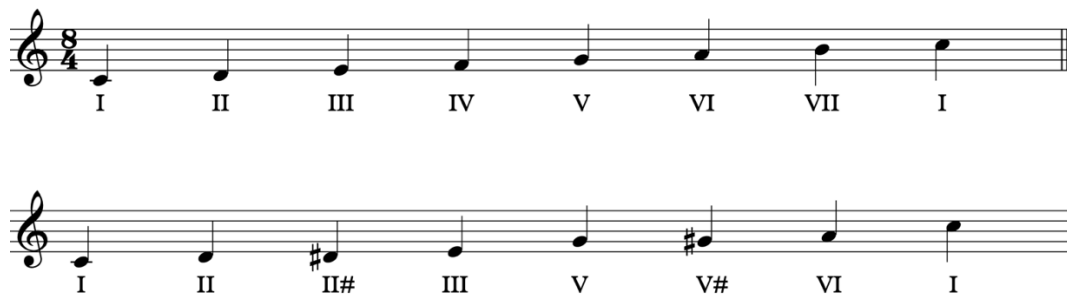


Figure 3. Major scale and major blues scale

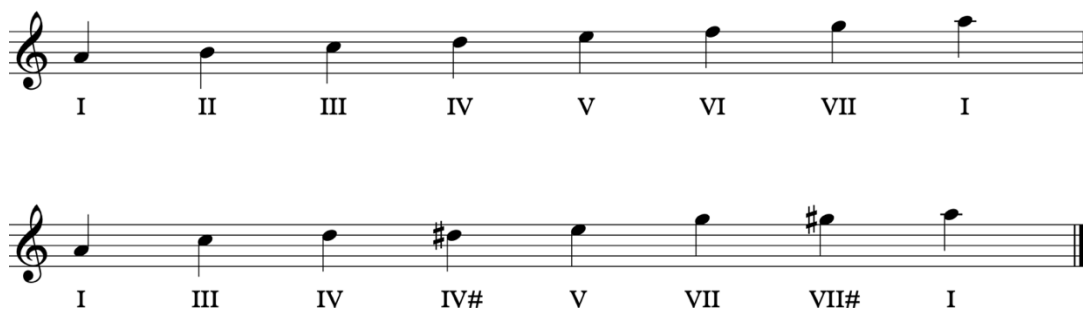


Figure 4. Natural minor scale and minor blues scale

Electro/Electric Violin

Electro violins, which have become widespread with great interest in recent years, can have very different designs and features. These varieties can be grouped under three main headings: semi-acoustic-electronic violin, electronic (silent)

violin, midi violin. Along with this, fretted, fretless, 4-wire, 5-wire models have become widespread (Asano, 2023; Shop, 2022).

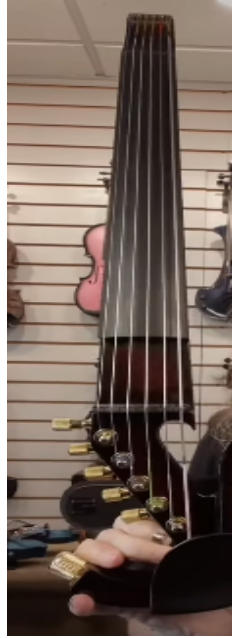


Figure 5. Fretless, 6-strings electro violin (URL 1)



Figure 6. 6-Strings electro violin with frets (URL 2)

"Alexander Markov, Mia Asano, Lyndsey Stirling, Mark Wood" are examples of musicians who use the famous electric violin. Examples of famous violin makers are "Mark Wood, Yamaha, Cantini, Viper Violins". The violin used during the performance is a handmade, special violin built by Yiğitcan Kesendere in 2012. The model of the violin was determined as "YCV5WF" by Kesendere. The letters "YC" in the model represent the words "Yiğitcan", the letter "V" represents "Violin", the number 5 represents 5-wire, the letter "W" represents "White", and the letter "F" represents "Fretted". The body of the violin is made of 20-year-old linden tree and the keyboard is made of ebony tree. "Artec" brand piezzo subthreshold magnetic is used in the violin. The body design of the violin was inspired by the "Ibanez Jem7V-WH" guitar used by the famous guitarist Steve Vai. "YCV5-WF" model violin was signed by Steve Vai at the 2023 Istanbul concert.



Figure 7. Ibanez “Jem7V-WH” model guitar (URL 3)



Figure 8. “YCV5WF” model electro violin (Personal Archive)

Effect pedal-processor pedals

Although the processor pedals (effect pedals), which were first produced and used for electric guitars, were used to change, shape and expand the guitar sound, they have started to be tested in many different instruments over time. Especially with the spread of electric violin users, interest in these pedals has increased. Pedals that provide users with a variety of tonal effects, modulations, echoes, and other sound effects and manipulations allow users to achieve a wide range of sounds. Some of the features of these pedals can be shown as "Distortion, Overdrive, Fuzz, Chorus, flanger, phaser, Delay, Reverb, Wah-Wah, Looper" (Yazar, 2022).

"Nux" brand "MG30" model pedal was used by Kesendere during the performance.

Performance Analysis and Originality

During the performance, the infrastructure of the "Chuss Music" Youtube channel titled "E Minor Blues Guitar Backing Track BB King Style" was used. 12 gauge blues chord patterns were used.

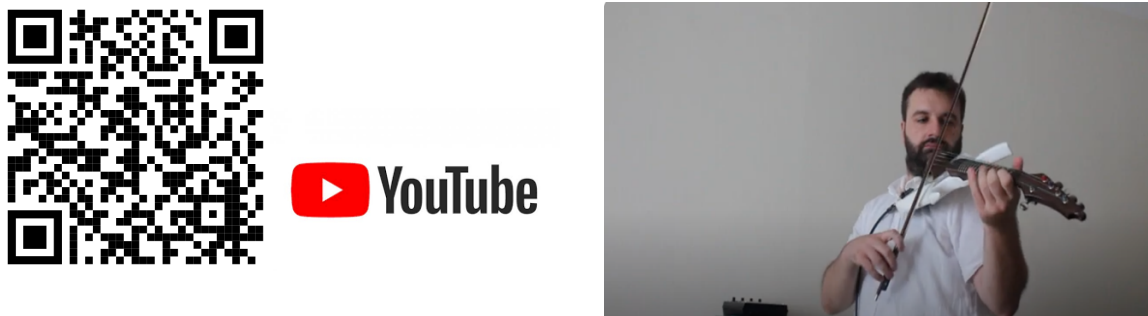


Figure 9. Yiğitcan Kesendere “3rd International Rast Music Congress – Blues” performance video

Two different tone options, overdrive and clean tone, were used by Kesendere by connecting the electro violin to the Nux brand Mg-30 effector pedal. Due to the constant bottom noise and chirping due to grounding, the researcher undertook the task of grounding by touching the pedal during the performance. During the performance, the “vertical vibrato” technique, where the use of electric guitarists on the violin resembling the “bend” technique, and the “feed back” technique with a bow, and the slide/glissando technique frequently used by B.B. King were used on the violin. During the performance, chromatic, pentatonic, blues, rapid passages from natural minor scales and shred technique were used by Kesendere. The entire performance consisted of improvisation, no written or determined notes or melodies were created before the performance.

Conclusion and Discussion

With the improvisation performance of blues rock with Kesendere, electro pitch violin, He was awarded the “Western Music-String Instruments” award by the 3rd Rast Music Awards.

It has been determined that the development of electro violins continues day by day, the use of fret violin, 5-string, 6-string violin has become widespread, electro violins have been tried with different pedals, and the use of electro violin in rock/blues/jazz music has increased.

Mark Wood (2018) used pentatonic scales, fretted electro violin and overdrive effect in his improvised performance video on Youtube. As a difference with Kesendere’s performance, it was determined that Wood gave a short performance for the promotion of the violin and played it without any infrastructure.

It was determined that Mia Asano and Lyndsey Stirling accompanied the pop music infrastructure instead of blues music in their electro violin performances. It can be said that they gave a much more spectacular performance than Kesendere’s performance as stage shows. While Kesendere performs a completely improvised performance on the B.B. King infrastructure for Blues music, it can be said that Asano and Stirling perform a more notational performance and accordingly have a high energy in terms of “Groove”.

Recommendations

It is very difficult to find orchestras and groups for music performed in groups such as rock music, jazz music and pop music in some cases and regions. Unfortunately, the economic costs of the established orchestras make it difficult for these orchestras to have a long life. In such cases, computer programs such as “Jjazzlab, ChordPulse, Band in a Box” or ready-made infrastructure videos on Youtube can be used. Considering that the grounding problem is frequently encountered in our country, unfortunately, a solution is sought with the conductivity of the human body as an economic and short-term solution. In these cases, a person tries to prevent bottom noise by touching the pedal.

Biodata of Author



Dr. **Yiğitcan Kesendere** was born in 1990 in Bursa. He made his violin studies with names such as Bayazit Akhundov, Seda Gürtel, Alexander Markov, Cihat Aşkın, Gilles Apap. 2017-New York Jazz Competition “Solo Category 1.”, 2023-X.Stockholm International Music Competition “Composition”, 2023-International 3.Rast Music Congress and Music Awards “Western Music-String Instruments”, “Article-Most cited Article ”awards.

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Web Sites

URL 1. <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/I17a2MAwHKw>)

URL 2. https://www.youtube.com/shorts/2aMqK5Vp_ks)

URL 3. <https://www.mydukk.com/ibanez-jem7v-wh-white-elektro-gitar>