



# Modality: Scales, Modes & Chords - The Primordial Building Blocks of Music

By Jeff Brent, Schell Barkley

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Primarily a music theory reference, *Modality* presents a unique perspective on the origins, interlocking aspects, and usage of the most common scales and modes in occidental music.

Anyone wishing to seriously explore the realms of scales, modes, and their real-world functions will find the most important issues dealt with in meticulous detail within these pages. Logical illustrations accompany in-depth examinations of chordal harmonies, cadential motions, and progressions.

This book is perfect for both music students and teachers, as either a course in itself or to augment any theory curriculum.

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## **Modality: Scales, Modes & Chords - The Primordial Building Blocks of Music** By Jeff Brent, Schell Barkley Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

Review

"The theoretical formulations are certainly novel and thought-provoking."

**Joe Mulholland** - *Chair of Harmony Department, Berklee College of Music*

"*Modality*' is a killer text. Check it out. Incredible!!!!"

**Vic Juris** - author "*Modern Chords: Advanced Harmony for Guitar*" (Mel Bay)

"Highly advanced (yet highly practical!) knowledge. I fully recommend it!"

**Adam Neely** - Bassist and Composer

Berklee College of Music (graduate summa cum laude: Jazz Composition), Manhattan School of Music

"A very thorough and well written book on the science of modes and scales"

**Scot Ranney** - author "*Jazz Piano Notebook*"

From the Inside Flap

This is a book for musicians who are passionate about their craft - so passionate that they want to know where it comes from, how it works, and what its possibilities are. This volume is not a casual read, but if you want to thoroughly understand the melodic and harmonic function of scales and modes, Brent and Barkley will take you on a fascinating journey.

*Modality* begins, well, at the very beginning, with a look at some basic laws of physics involving intervals and the overtone series. Through a step-by-step process, the authors go on to trace the evolution of the pentatonic scale, major scale, modes, and ultimately all of the scales commonly employed by jazz musicians.

Throughout the discussion, they make it clear that all scales (yes, even symmetrical scales - and there are more than you think!) are formed as logical extensions of the basic major scale modes, which themselves are simply collections of consonant fourths derived from the overtone series.

The advantage to examining a scale in terms of its derivation and component parts is that you gain a basic understanding of its inherent characteristics and why it behaves the way it does. The authors elaborate on this as they discuss the cadences and progressions of the various modes one-by-one. We may know from experience that bII-i cadences are effective in Phrygian modes, while bVII-i cadences work well in Aeolian modes, but few of us have explored the reasons why.

The section on The Chromatic Modes is challenging, but also fascinating and worth delving into. The only 'criticism' I could conjure up was, "*Well, I don't think of it that way, but I wonder what other possibilities these concepts might open up for me?*"

This book has been carefully thought out, and explores musical relationships that many of us never dreamed were possible. Few individuals, including musicians, take the time to discover or appreciate the innate mathematical beauty of how music is put together. "*Unified field theory*" is an appropriate subtitle for this volume. It's just uncanny how the surface complexity of music reduces to utter simplicity and sheer logic.

Although some will read the volume cover-to-cover (not at one sitting!), others will find it more suited as a

reference work. The copious appendices cover a broad array of topics with clear tables and charts.

If your approach to music theory is, "*I know what works, but I want to know why and what else I might explore,*" then this is the book for you.

### **Dr. Robert Rawlins**

Coordinator of Music Theory and Chair of the Department of Music at Rowan University

Author of "*Jazzology: The Encyclopedia of Jazz Theory for All Musicians*" (with N.E. Bahha) and "*A Simple and Direct Guide to Jazz Improvisation*" (Hal Leonard Corp)

From the Back Cover

"A microscopic examination and logical formalization of twentieth century music. Having played several kinds of world music, I must say that *Modality* opens new perspectives for any musician in the world, from East to West and from North to South. Bravo!"

### **Nor Eddine Bahha**

Composer, arranger and world music researcher

Co-Author *Jazzology: The Encyclopedia of Jazz Theory for All Musicians*, Hal Leonard

"A supercharged compendium of all things modal. Reading *Modality* will stretch your brain beyond our conventional musical solar system."

### **Dave Frank**

Author *Joy of Improv Series*, Hal Leonard

"A detailed and original analysis of hundreds of scales and modes that throws new light on their formation and use."

### **Tim Richards**

Author *Exploring Jazz Piano Vols 1 & 2*,

Schott Music/Hal Leonard

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Teresa Dillard:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *Modality: Scales, Modes & Chords - The Primordial Building Blocks of Music*. Try to the actual book *Modality: Scales, Modes & Chords - The Primordial Building Blocks of Music* as your buddy. It means that it can be your friend when you truly feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunate to suit your needs. The book makes you considerably more confident because you can know every little thing by the book. So, let me make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

**Mitchell Smith:**

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**Gloria Lentz:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the whole day to reading a reserve. The book Modality: Scales, Modes & Chords - The Primordial Building Blocks of Music it is very good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

**Joel Newsom:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got students? We believe that that problem was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. So you know that little person such as reading or as looking at become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important and also book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update with regards to something by book. Amount types of books that can you go onto be your object. One of them are these claims Modality: Scales, Modes & Chords - The Primordial Building Blocks of Music.

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