

melodic material, concentrating on ecstatic shouts and cries, swooping across the others in big slurs and swipes, lightning flashing across a turbulent sea. The conventional roles of the instruments are suspended, reinvented.

To return to the car metaphor, it would be like driving an automobile in which the relationships between the parts of the motor are repeatedly reinvented. All those hoses and fans and gears constantly reconnected, retooled, recalibrated. En route. The sparkplug suddenly not sparking, instead deciding to channel antifreeze. Perhaps not the most efficient motor vehicle. When it breaks down it's a disaster, but when it's humming along, like it was in the Ayler Trio's case, it sure is a fine ride. Rather unlike a car, in fact, it could be a vehicle created by Jean Tinguely, the metal sculptor whose kinetic machines took themselves apart as they whizzed and banged along. The relationship between the parts is different when the show is over than they are when it starts. Interaction dynamics? Hey, now: dynamic interactions.

Before we detail any of these interaction dy-

interactions dynamics
relationships dynamics

namics, first an overarching observational schema. In relation to what the others are doing, what each musician is contributing can be characterized as either (1) matching, (2) complementary, or (3) contrasting. The overall energy of the music might be said to be (1) concentrated or (2) diffused.

There are many different kinds of interaction dynamics. A few of the most common species follow here, enumerated and slightly elaborated, for your dining and dancing pleasure.

1. Dialogue

The easiest kind of interaction to recognize is the conversation. Just to keep it simple, take a duet. One player suggests something, the other responds and offers a bit more, the first one builds on the response, and so on. Carried out too obviously, dialogue can turn into a musical seesaw, one up/one down, not really going anywhere or developing. But it's elemental, an essential part of musical communication. As in daily life, when you hear people exchanging ideas this way, it tells you one key thing: they're listening to one another, paying