

## A Study of Ad lib Vocal Technique - The Effect of Yolanda Adams in Black Gospel Style -

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### 1. Introduction

The characteristics of Ad-Libs in Live album 『The Experience』 which was selected to analyses characteristics of Yolanda Adams' Ad-Libs, are as below. One is using non-chord tone in certain interval relation, other is using 5 tones as one scale, the other is using rhythm and melody repeatedly. Based on the above characteristics, we apply them to simple songs which are having simple chord tone and melody and composition of changing interval that movement of main melody is third, fourth and fifth.

### 2. Analysis of Yolanda Adams' Ad-Libs

#### 1) Introduction of Yolanda Adams' album 『The Experience』

As a Yolanda Adams' live album in 2001, total 11 songs are in this album. The songs are as below. First song is 'I Believe I Can Fly(With Gereld Levert)', second song is 'Already Alright', third song is 'Continual Praise', forth song is 'Fragile Heart', fifth song is 'What About The Children?', sixth song is 'Ye Of Little Faith', seventh song is 'Open My Heart', eighth song is 'That Name', ninth song is 'In the Midst Of It All', tenth song is 'Yeah' and eleventh song is 'I Believe I Can Fly'.

#### 2) Type analysis of using Ad-Libs in songs of this album

##### (1) Type of Ad-Libs which is appeared in interval relation

We accumulated using number of Ad-Libs which were expressed by non-chord tone in certain interval relation in the songs of this album which was selected to analyses characteristics of Yolanda Adams' Ad-Libs. From the results, the most using numbers of Ad-Libs were 68 times which was using in unison relation, another using numbers in interval relation of upper and lower minor second, upper and lower minor third, upper perfect fourth, upper and lower minor sixth, upper and lower major sixth, upper and lower minor seventh, upper and lower major seventh and upper and lower perfect eighth were 0 ~ 8 times. Another most using numbers of Ad-Libs were appeared in interval relation of upper and lower major third, lower perfect fourth, upper and lower perfect fifth which were accumulated 13 ~ 38 times.

##### (2) Type analysis of Ad-Libs which is using 5 tones as scale

Although there was a type of Ad-Libs which was used in interval relation among types of Yolanda Adams' Ad-Libs, type of Ad-Libs which is using 5 tones as scale is also characteristically. This type was used 0 ~ 4 times among all songs in this album and most of them were appeared in 'Already Alright', 'Continual Praise', 'Open My Heart' and 'I Believe I Can Fly'.

Especially, this type of Ad-Libs was used most in intro or interlude part of songs unlike other type which is using non-chord tone which was appeared in several parts of songs.

##### (3) Type analysis of Ad-Libs which is using rhythm and melody repeatedly

In Yolanda Adams' Ad-Libs, type of Ad-Libs which is using rhythm and melody repeatedly is also characteristically along with types of Ad-Libs which is using non-chord tone and other type which is using five tones as scale. This kind of Ad-Libs were used 2~13 times in those songs. Most of it was used in 'In the Midst Of It All' and 'I Believe I Can Fly'. It was appeared 13 times of each song. This type of Ad-Libs is also appeared in formal parts of songs like type of Ad-Libs which is using 5 tones as scale. Type of Ad-Libs which is using rhythm and melody repeatedly was mostly used in latter part of the songs and it is divided into melody-based type and rhythm-based type.

[Table 1] Classified table for type of characteristics in Yolanda Adams' Ad-Libs

Characteristics of Ad-Libs	Classification of type
1. 4 types of Ad-Libs which are using non-chord tone in unison relation	① Type of Ad-Libs which is using upper neighboring tone
	② Type of Ad-Libs which is using lower neighboring tone
	③ Type of Ad-Libs which is using upper neighboring tone and lower neighboring tone by mixture
	④ Type of Ad-Libs which is using non-chord tone without returning to original tone
2. Type of Ad-Libs which is using non-chord tone in interval relation of major third,	① Type of Ad-Libs which is using non-chord tone in interval relation of upper major third
	② Type of Ad-Libs which is using non-chord tone in interval relation of lower major third
	③ Type of Ad-Libs which is using non-chord tone in interval relation of upper perfect fourth

perfect fourth, perfect fifth	④ Type of Ad-Libs which is using non-chord tone in interval relation of lower perfect fourth
	⑤ Type of Ad-Libs which is using non-chord tone in interval relation of upper perfect fifth
	⑥ Type of Ad-Libs which is using non-chord tone in interval relation of lower perfect fifth
3. Type of Ad-Libs which is using 5 tones as scale	① Type of Ad-Libs which is appeared in intro
	② Type of Ad-Libs which is appeared in interlude
4. Type of Ad-Libs which is using rhythm and melody repeatedly	① Melody-based type among types of Ad-Libs which are using rhythm and melody repeatedly
	② Rhythm-based type among types of Ad-Libs which are using rhythm and melody repeatedly

**3) Example for types of Yolanda Adams' Ad-Libs**

(1) Type of Ad-Libs which is using sequential processing type of passing tone



< Score 1. 50<sup>th</sup> bar of 'Already Alright' >

This expressing method is having natural connection between each interval and giving stable feeling through Ad-Libs which is using sequential processing type of passing tone.

(2) Type of Ad-Libs which is using passing tone and neighboring tone by mixture



< Score 2. 31<sup>st</sup> bar of 'Fragile Heart' >

This type of Ad-Libs is using sequential processing type of passing tone and upper neighboring tone by mixture. This type is supplementing monotonous between each interval by expressing with grace notes and these Ad-Libs can express newer feeling with interval which is moving opposite direction to upper for a while from their overall lower processing.

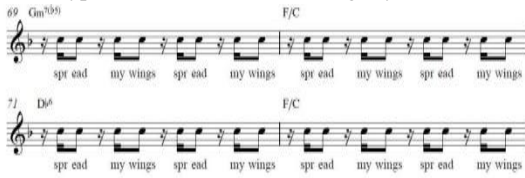
(3) Type of Ad-Libs which is using 5 tones as scale



< Score 3. intro of 'Already Alright' >

In the intro part of this song, all 16 bars expresses with Ad-Libs which is using E b Major Pentatonic Scale. These Ad-Libs can relieve the monotony in longueur which has no song from vocalist and vocalist can express their own color with the bright and energetic feeling.

(4) Type of Ad-Libs which is using rhythm and melody repeatedly

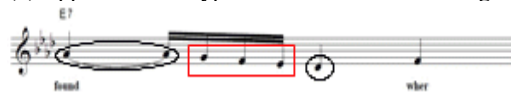


< Score 4. 69<sup>th</sup>-72<sup>nd</sup> bar of 'I Believe I Can Fly' >

Yolanda Adams mostly uses this kind of Ad-Libs at the latter part of songs, it uses rhythm and melody as a repeating Pattern. It can express climax part of song well and capability of vocalist is easily appeared in this type.

**4) Application for type of Yolanda Adams' Ad-Libs to hymn**

(1) Application for type of Ad-Libs which is using sequential processing type of passing tone



<Score 5. Ad-Libs tone in 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> bar of 'Oh spread the tidings round' A part >

This type is applying sequential type of passing tone which is mostly used by Yolanda Adams' in vocal part which is reinterpreting hymn, it can express groove and rhythmic sense with Ad-Libs of non-chord tone between each melodies and give an grace effect by supplementing monotonous of melody.

**3. Conclusion**

Since Ad-Libs can extend expressiveness of vocal and be the good example for singing expression which can make their own style, this study suggests effective application methods that vocal can construct their own style and their characteristic expressing method by applying Yolanda Adams' Ad-Libs which were appeared in hymn play that was represented with the feeling of Black Gospel such as types of Ad-Libs which are using non-chord tone, 5 tones as scale, rhythm and melody repeatedly.