

WALTZ FOR DEBBY

Lyric by Gene Lees

Music by Bill Evans

As Played on *Waltz for Debby*

Figure 5—Solo

This piece represents the hard-swinging side of Bill Evans. It is interesting to note that, though the head is a waltz, Evans usually played the solo chorus in common time. One feature that works so well in this solo is his marvelous development of motive. Notice how the first section (meas. 1–8) can be divided into two complementary sections, each of which sticks to a basic idea. You can follow this deliberate development of motive through much of the solo. Of course, the melody of the tune is never very far away—compare, for example, his note choice in measures 25–32 with the original melody.

I once heard a professor talk about Bill Evans's approach to rhythm as a series of rhythmic "streams." Evans has a unique way of combining various rhythmic elements such as swing eighths, eighth-note triplets, quarter-note triplets, and even double time (meas. 57). Where most performers might use these rhythms in a solo, Evans combines them in a way that is unique. Notice the variety of rhythms in measures 52–64. These "streams" really propel the music forward.

14	Full Band
15	Slow Demo meas. 55-62
16	Rhythm Track

Fig. 5

Solo

Moderately ♩ = 165

Chord changes for Figure 5:

- Measures 1-4: Fmaj7, D7#9, Gm9, C13 (8va), Am11 D7#9, Gm7 loco, C13
- Measures 5-8: A+7, Dm7, Gm9, C7, Fmaj7, Dm9, Gm9, C13
- Measures 9-12: Fmaj7, D7#9, Gm9, C13, A+7, D9, Gm9, C13, A+7, Dm9

14 Bm7b5 E7alt. Amaj7₃ Gm9 C13

18 Fmaj9 D7 Gm7 A7 Cm7 F7 Bbmaj7 A+7

22 Dm(maj9) G9 Abmaj7 Dbmaj7 Gm7 C13 Fmaj9 D7#9

26 Gm7 C13/Bb A+7 Ab+7 Gm9 C13/E A+7 Dm9

30 Gm7 C13 Am7 D9 Bm9b5 E7alt. Am7 F13/A

34 Bbmaj7 Eb9 Dm9 G7#11 Fmaj7/C

38 Gm9 C13 Fmaj9 F°7 Gm9 C13 Fmaj7 D7#9

42 Gm9 C13 A+7 D9 Gm9 C13 A+7 D7#9

46 Gm9 C13 Am9 Dm9 Gm9 C13 Fmaj9 D7#9

50 Gm9 C13 A+7 D7#9 Gm9 C13 A7#9 Dm9

54 Bm7b5 E7alt. Amaj7

57 Gm7 Gm7/C D13/A

59 Gm9 A+7 Dm9 F13 Bbmaj7 A+7

62 Dm6 G9 Abmaj7 Dbmaj9 Gm7 C13 Fmaj7 D7#9 Gm9 C13

67 A+7 D9 Gm7 C13 A7 Dm7 Gm7 C13 Am11 D9 Bm11 E9

73 Cmaj7 B7alt. Bbmaj7 A+7 Dm9 G13

77 Fmaj/C G#o7/C Gm7/C Db9/C Fmaj9/C G#o7/C

80 Gm7/C Db9/C Fmaj9 D7#9 Gm9 C9 A+7 D9