

PEACE PIECE

Music by Bill Evans

As Played on *Everybody Digs Bill Evans*

Figure 6—Piano Solo

“Peace Piece” is as much a study of “legit” composition as it is jazz improvisation. It is also a testament to Bill Evans’s abilities as an improviser that he could create such an amazing composition out of such simple elements.

“Peace Piece” is organized around a simple ostinato figure in the left hand. Evans does take a few liberties with the chords and rhythms of the ostinato, but these exceptions are mostly at cadence points.

The most intriguing section of “Peace Piece” occurs when he moves away from C major in measure 43. Here we hear a genius at work; Evans uses a free tonal approach that is reminiscent of some of Sergei Prokofiev’s music. As with all great composers, Evans utilizes balance—the return to C major in measure 68 provides symmetry to the composition.

17 Solo Piano

Fig. 6

Piano Solo

Gently, with rubato ♩ = 50

The musical score for the piano solo of "Peace Piece" is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 1-5) shows a treble clef with a whole rest and a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The bass clef features a steady eighth-note ostinato. The second system (measures 6-9) introduces a melodic line in the treble with triplets and a slur, while the bass clef continues the ostinato. The third system (measures 10-13) continues the melodic development in the treble, with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking at the end of measure 13. The bass clef maintains the ostinato throughout.

14

p *mf*

17

rall. *a tempo*

20

p *ppp* *p* *8va* *loco*

23

rall. *a tempo*

26

mf

29

pp *rall.* *f* *a tempo*

32 *grace notes simile*

35 *8va*

38 *8va*

41 *8va* *loco*

43 *8va* *mf* *simile* *p*

46 *8va* *mf*

48 *8va* ----- *15ma* ----- *f* *5* *loco* *3*

50 *15ma* ----- *8va* ----- *7* *3* *6* *3*

52 *8va* ----- *loco* *mf* *3* *3*

56 *8va* ----- *loco* *9* *f* *6* *7*

58 *8va* ----- *p* *3* *5* *5*

8va -----

60

3 3 3

8va -----

63

mp

5 3

mf

3 3 3 3

8va -----

65

pp

mp

3 3 3 3

8va -----

67

mf

loco

pp

mp

3

71

p

pp

mf

ppp

p