

BOARD

signature licks



INCLUDED

BILL EVANS

A Step-by-Step Breakdown
of the Piano Styles and Techniques
of a Jazz Legend

by Brent Edstrom

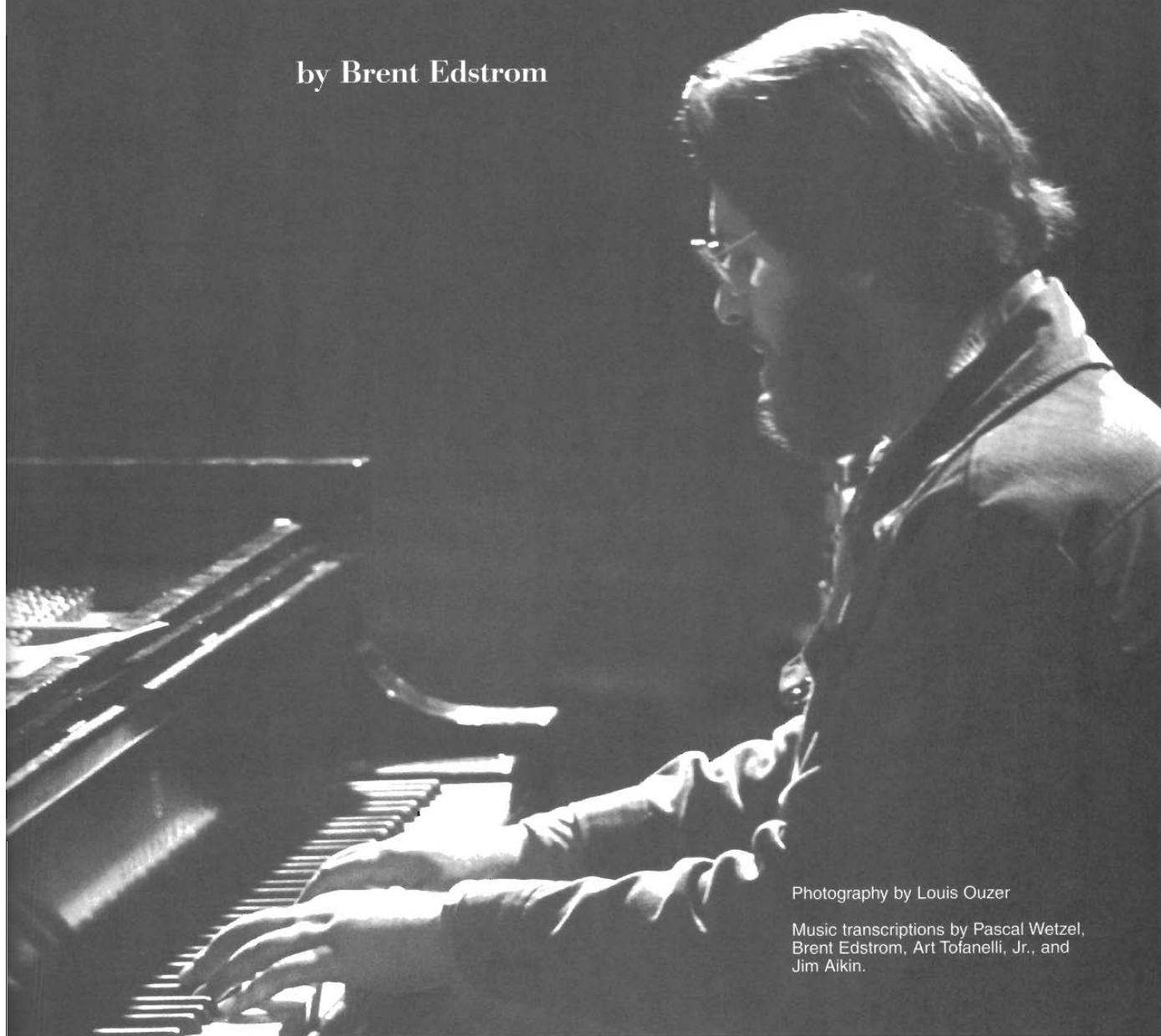


TRO

KEYBOARD *signature picks*

BILL EVANS

by Brent Edstrom



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Brent Edstrom, Art Tofanelli, Jr., and
Jim Aikin.

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CONTENTS

Page	Title	Track
4	Introduction	
4	About the Author	
4	The Recording	
5	Peri's Scope	1–3
9	Quiet Now	4–6
11	One for Helen	7–9
18	Re: Person I Knew	10–13
23	Waltz for Debby	14–16
27	Peace Piece	17
32	Time Remembered	18–20
35	The Opener	21–24
40	34 Skidoo	25–26
43	Turn Out the Stars	27
52	Very Early	28–30
55	Five	31–34

INTRODUCTION

If one had to make a list of the most influential jazz pianists, there is no question that Bill Evans would rank amongst the top. His many notable contributions to jazz include his refined touch and control, remarkable lyricism, amazing voicings, and harmonic and rhythmic innovation, to name a few. In addition to his many contributions as a pianist, Evans wrote a number of well-known jazz standards, including “Waltz for Debby” and “Peri’s Scope.”

Bill Evans had the ability to sculpt a standard tune or original composition into a work of art. Although his style is unmistakable—you can often tell in a few bars that Evans is the pianist—his performances were always fresh and imaginative.

It is not a big stretch to think that Evans was capable of so much; he worked hard at his music. Like John Coltrane and other jazz greats, Bill Evans practiced his craft with intensity. He also immersed himself in the music of many jazz innovators. You hear so many influences in his style, including the locked hands of Milt Buckner and Nat Cole, occasional left-hand patterns reminiscent of Red Garland and Erroll Garner, a touch of stride (listen to the third section of “Turn out the Stars”), and a right hand that is, at once, a tribute to the vocabulary of Bud Powell and Lee Konitz and a glimpse into the future of jazz.

I hope you enjoy working through the book as much as I enjoyed preparing it.

—Brent Edstrom

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brent Edstrom teaches at Whitworth College, where he coordinates the music theory and composition program. Edstrom has published numerous books with Hal Leonard Corporation, including *The Art Tatum Collection*, *Art Tatum Solo Book*, and *The Kenny Barron Collection*. He recently wrote *Making Music With Your Computer*, revised edition for EMBooks/artistpro.com and is currently working on a book on the topic of computer notation algorithms in C++. An active performer and composer, Edstrom has performed throughout the United States. His compositions and arrangements have been featured by such ensembles as the Spokane Symphony Orchestra, Spokane Jazz Orchestra, and the Eastman Jazz Ensemble.

THE RECORDING

Selections in this Signature Licks volume were recorded three ways:

- 1) As a full demo with the piano panned to the right and the rhythm section to the left; the piano parts can be panned out completely or isolated for close study.
- 2) Slow demos of notable piano excerpts.
- 3) A full mix with just bass and drums (and piano cues, where necessary).

Brent Edstrom, piano
Clipper Anderson, bass
Mark Ivester, drums

Trio selections recorded by David Lange at David Lange studios.