

THE OPENER

Music by Bill Evans
As Played on *I Will Say Goodbye*

Figure 8—Intro and Solo

It was a joy to work on the luscious harmonies in the first part of “The Opener.” Here we see the refined side of Bill Evans as a master of harmony and touch. I once heard his playing described as “three handed”—that is to say that he would provide melody with the right hand, bass tones with the left, and *both* hands shared in the role of harmony in the “third” part. This is even evident when looking at the transcription—Evans didn’t just play a melody over a bunch of chords; he was a master of voice leading.

Evans uses many interesting approaches in this solo, employing scale-tone triads, chord outlines, and the like. In measure 65, Evans uses a touch of blues. The passage starts with an ascending A minor pentatonic scale followed by a blue note (E \flat). We hear a similar hint of blues in measure 52 with his use of the *flat 3rd* (A \flat) and again in measure 69.

Fig. 8

Intro
Rubato ♩ = 170

13

rall.

21	Full Band
22	Slow Demo meas. 49-59
23	Slow Demo meas. 61-65
24	Rhythm Track

17 *a tempo*

21

25

29 **Solo break**
In time ♩ = 180

Bass and drums enter

33 C♯ C13 Bm7b5 E7#9 Am9 G#o7

36 Gm9 C13 F# Bm7b5 E7#9

39 Am9 D9 Gm9 C13 F#

42 Fm9 Bb13 Cmaj7 E7#9 Am9 E7#9

45 Am9 D9 Dm9

48 Abm9/Db Db9 C# Bm7b5 E7#9 Am9 G#o7

52 Gm9 C9 F# Bm7b5 E7#9

55 Am9 D9 Gm9 C13 F#

58 Fm9 Bb9 Cmaj7 E7#9 Am9 D9

61 C/G Fmaj7/G G7alt. C♯

64 Db13#11 C♯ C13 Bm7b5 E7#9

67 Am9 G#o7 Gm9 C13 F♯

70 Bm7b5 E7#9 Am9 D9 Gm9 C13

73 F♯ Fm9 Bb13 Cmaj7 E7#9

76 Am9 E7#9 Am9 D9

79 Dm9 Abm9/Db Db9 C#

82 Bm7b5 E7#9 Am9 G#o7 Gm9 C9

85 F# Bm7b5 E7#9 Am9 D9 loc Gm9 C13

89 F# Fm9 Bb9 Cmaj7 E7#9 Am9 D9

93 C/G Fmaj7/G G7alt. C# Db13#11 C#