FIVE

Music by Bill Evans As Played on New Jazz Conceptions

Figure 12-Section A

"Five" was especially fun to record. As you can imagine, the rhythm of the melody chorus is challenging. Fortunately, Clipper Anderson and Mark Ivester (bassist and drummer, respectively, on this Signature Licks recording) were easily up to the task. From a performance standpoint, the bridge provides the biggest challenge. Here, the drummer stays in 4/4 for eight measures while the piano and bass go through a series of 5:4 and 4:3 measures. I found it helpful to practice with a metronome (and Evans' recording, of course). If you can tap your foot and feel the underlying 4/4, you will have no trouble playing this piece.

In the solo section, we hear Evans as the consummate bop pianist. The chord changes are based on "I Got Rhythm." Unlike traditional "rhythm" changes, Evans uses a circle of fourths progression. In the first two A sections we have a circle progression starting on F#7: F#7–B7–E7–A7–D7–G7–C7–F7–B \flat . It is interesting to note that the last A section is different from the first. Here we have another circle progression, but in this instance, the progression is F7–B \flat 7–E \flat 7–A \flat 7–D \flat -G \flat 7–Cm7–F7–B \flat .

Evans takes advantage of the unique harmonic progression. He outlines chord tones in many sections of the solo (meas. 48, 55, 56, 57, 58, etc.). In addition to chord tones and scales, Evans uses many embellishments typical of bop solos, such as chromatic approach tones (meas. 60–61), turns (beats 1 and 2 of meas. 51), and changing tones (beat 4 of meas. 67). If you like this style of playing, I would encourage you to learn the vocabulary by practicing short melodic units in a variety of keys—rest assured that Bill Evans did the same thing!



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