

VERY EARLY

Music by Bill Evans
As Played on *Moonbeams*

Figure 11—Solo

“Very Early” would be a good choice for a first Bill Evans transcription. The solo begins after two complete statements of the theme. It is not too long or difficult, yet we hear all of the quintessential Evans techniques: close-position left hand, chords of omission, left- and right-hand rhythmic doubling, motivic development, and rhythmic variety.

Evans uses an active left hand for much of this solo. Note how the left doubles many of the important rhythms in the solo line. As we have seen in many of these transcriptions, Evans uses vertical chord outlines to great effect. A good example occurs in measures 35–40, where he develops an interesting arpeggiated pattern.

Measures 41–44 provided a transcribing challenge. This passage transcends the bar line! Listen to the accompanying CD or Evans’s original recording to get a clear idea of the phrasing for this passage.

Fig. 11

28	Full Band
29	Slow Demo meas. 32-40
30	Rhythm Track

Solo
1 ♩ = 132
Cmaj7

6 G7 C⁹ Bb7alt. Dmaj9

10 Am9 F#m7 B13 Em9

14 Ab13 Dbmaj13 Dm9 G13 C \sharp

18 Bb13 Eb \sharp Ab7alt. Dbmaj9

22 Dm9 G7alt. C \sharp Bb13#11 Dmaj9 Am9

27 F#m7 B13 Em9 Ab7alt.

31 Dbmaj9 Dm9 G13 C \sharp Bb13

35 Eb9 Ab13 Dbmaj9 Dm9 G13

39 C9 Bb13 Dmaj9 Am9

43 F#m7 B13 Em9 Ab13

47 Dbmaj9 G13 Cmaj7 Bb13

51 Ebmaj9 Ab7alt. Db9 G7