

# 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.

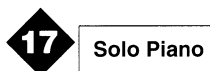


Fig. 6

Piano Solo

Gently, with rubato ♩ = 50

14

*p* *mf*

This system contains measures 14, 15, and 16. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and ties, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and moving to mezzo-forte (*mf*) by measure 16. The left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

17

*rall.* *a tempo*

This system contains measures 17, 18, and 19. The tempo markings *rall.* and *a tempo* are placed above the right hand staff. The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand has chords and moving lines.

20

*p* *ppp* *p* *loco*

This system contains measures 20, 21, and 22. Measure 20 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 21 features a sextuplet (6) and a triplet (3) with a *ppp* dynamic. Measure 22 has a triplet (3) and a *loco* marking. An *8va* marking is present above the right hand staff in measure 21.

23

*rall.* *a tempo*

This system contains measures 23, 24, and 25. The tempo markings *rall.* and *a tempo* are placed above the right hand staff. The right hand has chords and melodic lines, with triplets (3) and quintuplets (5) in measures 24 and 25.

26

*mf*

This system contains measures 26, 27, and 28. The right hand starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and ties, while the left hand has chords and moving lines.

29

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

This system contains measures 29, 30, and 31. Measure 29 starts with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. Measure 30 has a *rall.* marking and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 31 has an *a tempo* marking. The right hand features triplets (3) and a final triplet (3) with a slur.

32 *grace notes simile*

6

6

3

*mp*

35 *8va* *simile*

6

3

3

3

*mp*

38 *8va*

5

3

3

3

*mp*

41 *8va* *loco*

5

6

5

*loco*

*mp*

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

3

*mf*

*simile*

3

*p*

46 *8va* *mf*

3

*mf*

3

5

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

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

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

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

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

8va

60

3 3 3

8va

63

*mp*

5 3 3 3 3

*mf*

8va

65

*pp*

3 3 3 3 3

*mp*

8va

67

*mf*

*loco*

3 3 3 3 3

*pp*

*mp*

71

*p*

*pp*

*mf*

*ppp*

*p*