

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.

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

Fig. 8

Intro
Rubato ♩ = 170

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).
System 1 (measures 1-4): Starts with a piano (*mp*) dynamic. The right hand plays a melodic line with grace notes, while the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.
System 2 (measures 5-8): Continues the melodic and harmonic development with more complex chord voicings.
System 3 (measures 9-12): Features a key signature change to two flats (B-flat major/D minor). The melody becomes more active, and the left hand uses more intricate chordal textures.
System 4 (measures 13): Ends with a *rall.* (ritardando) marking. The right hand has a long, sustained note, and the left hand provides a final harmonic resolution.

17 *a tempo*

Musical score for measures 17-20. Treble clef contains chords and eighth notes. Bass clef contains a long note with a slur and eighth notes.

21

Musical score for measures 21-24. Treble clef contains chords and eighth notes. Bass clef contains eighth notes and chords.

25

Musical score for measures 25-28. Treble clef contains chords and eighth notes. Bass clef contains eighth notes and chords.

29 **Solo break**
In time ♩ = 180
mf

Musical score for measures 29-32. Treble clef contains chords and eighth notes. Bass clef contains chords and a long note.

Bass and drums enter

33 C⁹ C13 Bm7^b5 E7[#]9 Am9 G[#]7

Musical score for measures 33-35. Treble clef contains chords and eighth notes. Bass clef contains chords and eighth notes.

36 Gm9 C13 F⁹ Bm7^b5 E7[#]9

Musical score for measures 36-39. Treble clef contains chords and eighth notes. Bass clef contains chords and eighth notes.

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

8va

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

8va

loco

89 F# Fm9 Bb9 Cmaj7 E7#9 Am9 D9

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