

# ONE FOR HELEN

Music by Bill Evans

As Played on *Bill Evans at Town Hall*

## Figure 3 – Head to Bass Solo

“One for Helen” was one of the more challenging pieces to record for this volume. Although the piece is not overly fast, it is no easy task to mimic Evans’s subtlety and control. Here we see his use of close-position left-hand structures as well as many chords of omission (measures 5, 8, 9, 10, 27, etc.).

As with many great jazz solos, chord tones play an important role. Note the use of descending augmented triads in measures 87–91: A $\flat$ +, G+, G $\flat$ +, F+, and E+. Although it is simple to play, the figure is quite effective. A similar use of descending upper structure chords can be heard in measures 81–82.

One of the most striking features of this solo is the tremendous rhythmic variety. Evans uses swing eighths, triplet eighths, and triplet quarter notes, among other rhythms. This rhythmic energy culminates in the tricky passage in measures 123–130. My best advice here is to play the passage slowly until it becomes second nature.

Evans is very specific in his approach to tonic-minor chords in this piece. Although he plays a Cm6 in the left hand for each tonic chord in the piece, he uses B $\natural$  as an approach tone to the tonic note in the right hand and B $\flat$  as a melodic tone for any chord outlines.

Fig. 3

A

Fast Swing  $\text{♩} = 184$

1 Dm9b5  
G7  
Cm7

- 7 Full Band
- 8 Slow Demo  
meas. 47-63
- 9 Rhythm Track

5 Fm11  
Bb7  
Am7b5  
D7alt  
Gm7b5

10 C9  
Fm7  
Fm7/Eb  
D9  
D7alt.  
G13  
G7

**B**

15      C11      C13      F7      B♭7alt.      E♭7♯11      A♭7      D♭7+      F♯9

**C**

22      B+7      E13      A7alt.      Cm9♭5      G+7      Gm7♭5

28      C7      Fm9      B♭7alt.      E♭9      A♭13      G+7

**A**

33      Cm⁹      Solo break      Dm9♭5      G+7

37      Cm⁹      Fm9      B♭13

41      Am7♭5      D7      Gm7♭5      C7

45 Fm9 D7<sup>#9</sup> G7<sup>b9</sup>

49 C11 Cl3 F9 Bb13 Eb7<sup>#9</sup>

**B**

53 Ab13 A+7 Db9 F#7 B13

57 E9 A13 Ab13 G7

**C**

61 Gm7b5 C7 Fm9 Bb13

65 A13 Ab13 G+7 Cm9 A13

**A**

69 A $\flat$ 13 G+7 Cm $\flat$ <sup>6</sup>

73 Fm9 B $\flat$ 13 Am7 $\flat$ 5 D7 $\flat$ 9

77 Gm7 $\flat$ 5 C7 Fm9

81 D7alt. G7 $\flat$ 5 Cl3 F9

**B**

85 B $\flat$ 13 E $\flat$ 9 A $\flat$ +7 G+7

89 G $\flat$ 13 B9 E+7 A+7

**C**

93 A♭13 G+7 Gm7♭5 C13

This section consists of four measures. Measure 1: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (A♭, A♭), (C, C), (E, E). Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (D, D), (F, F), (A, A). Measure 2: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (G, G), (B, B), (D, D). Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (E, E), (G, G), (B, B). Measure 3: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (C, C), (E, E), (G, G). Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (A, A), (C, C), (E, E). Measure 4: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (F, F), (A, A), (C, C). Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (D, D), (F, F), (A, A).

Fm9

B♭13

A13

A♭13

G+7

97

This section continues from measure 4 of section C. Measures 5-8: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (F, F), (A, A), (C, C), (F, F). Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (D, D), (F, F), (A, A), (D, D).

**A**

101 Cm⁹ A♭13 G+7

This section starts with a new key signature. Measures 1-4: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (C, C), (E, E), (G, G), (B, B). Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (A, A), (C, C), (E, E), (G, G). Measures 5-8: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (F, F), (A, A), (C, C), (F, F). Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (D, D), (F, F), (A, A), (D, D).

Cm⁹

Fm9

B♭13

This section continues from measure 8 of section A. Measures 9-12: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (F, F), (A, A), (C, C), (F, F). Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (D, D), (F, F), (A, A), (D, D).

Am7♭5

D7♭9

Gm7♭5

C13♭9

This section continues from measure 12 of section A. Measures 13-16: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (F, F), (A, A), (C, C), (F, F). Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (D, D), (F, F), (A, A), (D, D).

Fm9

D7♯9

G+7

This section concludes the section. Measures 17-20: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (F, F), (A, A), (C, C), (F, F). Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (D, D), (F, F), (A, A), (D, D).

C11              C13              Fm9              F9              **B**  
**Bb13**              E $\flat$ 7 $\sharp$ 9

A $\flat$ 13              D $\flat$ 9              F $\sharp$ +7              B13              E9

125              A+7              A $\flat$ 13              **C**              G+7

Gm7 $\flat$ 5              C7 $\flat$ 9              Fm9              B $\flat$ 13              A13

134              A $\flat$ 13              G+7              Cm $\flat$               E $\flat$ 9              A $\flat$ 13              G+7

139              Cm $\flat$               Fm9              B $\flat$ 9              Am7 $\flat$ 5

D7**b**9                    Gm7**b**5                    C13**b**9                    Fm9

144

D7**b**9                    G+7                    C9                    F7#9

148

**B**

Bb+7                    Eb9                    Ab+7                    Db9                    Gb+7

153

B13                    E9                    A13

157

**C**

Ab13                    G+7                    Gm7**b**5                    C13                    Fm9

161

Bb13                    A13                    Ab13                    G7                    Cm⁹                    Eb7

166