

Bill Evans - You Must Believe In Spring 1981

Written by bluesever

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Bill Evans - You Must Believe In Spring (1981)



01. *B Minor Waltz (For Ellaine) (Bill Evans) - 3:13*
02. *You Must Believe In Spring (Alan Bergman/Marilyn Bergman/Jacques Demy/Michel Legrand) - 5:40*
03. *Gary's Theme (Gary McFarland) - 4:16*
04. *We Will Meet Again (For Harry) (Bill Evans) - 4:00*
05. *The Peacocks (Jimmy Rowles) - 6:00*
06. *Sometime Ago (Sergio Mihanovich) - 4:34*
07. *Theme From M*A*S*H (aka Suicide Is Painless) (Michael Altman/Johnny Mandel) - 5:55*

Personnel:

- Bill Evans - piano
- Eddie Gómez - bass
- Eliot Zigmund – drums

After more than a decade as one of the pianist's most sympathetic bassists, this was Eddie Gomez's last recording with Evans, a trio set with drummer Eliot Zigmund recorded in 1977 and released after Evans' death in 1980.

Evans never stopped searching for new ideas. He might be faulted for repeatedly looking for them in the same tunes, but this program is quite varied, including Johnny Mandel's "Suicide is Painless" (the theme from M.A.S.H.); Michel Legrand's title track; Gary McFarland's waltz "Gary's Theme," complementing Evans' own "B Minor Waltz (For Ellaine)," composed for Evans' wife; and "We Will Meet Again (For Harry)," Evans' tribute to his brother.

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In Evans' hands, melodies and time signatures are often more whispered, more shadowed, than stated, as in the opening "B Minor Waltz (For Ellaine)" and the somber, reflective title track, which blossoms, after Gomez' mid-song solo, like dogwoods on a mid-May morning. Evans boasted such a unique, unmistakable touch—emotional and beautiful and even soft, but never sweet. (Gomez is pretty amazing himself on "M.A.S.H.," laying down the foundation rock solid yet pushing the music forward, too.)

Among this reissue's bonus tracks, "Without a Song" is about as ebullient as you'll ever hear this pianist, and "Freddie Freeloader," the one track on Miles Davis' landmark album Kind of Blue where Evans did not play, presents the rare sound of Evans on electric piano.

As a rule, Evans could pick up the program from an elementary school chorus festival and play it inventively and beautifully. This set is no exception. ---Chris M. Slaweki, allaboutjazz.com

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