

Bill Evans – From Left To Right (1970)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 15 October 2009 19:44 - Last Updated Sunday, 27 July 2014 14:58

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1. *What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life?*
2. *I'm All Smiles*
3. *Why Did I Choose You?*
4. *Soiree*
5. *Dolphin-Before, The*
6. *Dolphin-After, The*
7. *Lullaby For Helene*
8. *Like Someone In Love*
9. *Children's Play Song*
10. *What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life? - (quartet)*
11. *Why Did I Choose You? - (quartet)*
12. *Soiree - (alternate take)*
13. *Lullaby For Helene - (quartet)*

Personnel: Bill Evans (acoustic & electric pianos); Mickey Leonard (arranger, conductor); Harvey Estrin (flute, reeds); George Triffon (trumpet, flugelhorn); John D. Messner, Wayne Andre, Mickey Gravine (trombone); Paul Falise (bass trombone); Ray Alonge, Joseph DeAngelis (French horn); Donald Ashworth, Romeo Penque, Joseph Soldo, William Slapin (reeds); David Schwartz (violin, viola); Karen Jones, Leo Kahn, David Nadien, George Ockner, Raoul Poliakin, Tosha Samaroff (violin); Norman Forrest, Alfred V. Brown (viola); Seymour Barab, George Ricci (cello); Sam Brown (guitar); Eddie Gomez (bass); John Beal (electric bass); Marty Morell, Sol Gubin, Gary Chester (drums).

In the '60s the jazz pianist Bill Evans would occasionally record an orchestral "easy listening" session to pay the bills, with predictably mediocre results. But FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, while certainly easy on the ears, is also one of Evans' most intriguing "lost" records, brought to us courtesy of Verve's winning "By Request" series. The novelty is that Evans plays both Fender Rhodes and acoustic piano simultaneously in real time, trading off themes and improves with deliberative taste and, of course, rare skill. The sessions were produced by Evans' long-time, protective manager Helen Keane, so there was little danger of "selling out."

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Unobtrusively arranged by Michael Leonard, this 1969 release resembles nothing so much as famed bossa nova composer Antonio Carlos Jobim's series of shimmering instrumental albums with arranger Claus Ogerman, even without those gently relentless rhythms driving every tune. Still, the highlight of this album is the dancing two-part "The Dolphin - Before & After," a non-Jobim bossa nova which allows Evans his only extended improvisations. ---cduniverse.com

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