

Dow Jones Reprints: This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. To order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers, use the Order Reprints tool at the bottom of any article or visit www.djreprints.com

See a sample reprint in PDF format. Order a reprint of this article now

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

THE ARENA | June 7, 2012, 5:48 p.m. ET

A Legendary Bill Evans Session Comes to Light

Eight days after jazz pianist Bill Evans opened at New York's Top of the Gate in October 1968, his manager let a determined college student tape the trio. The student arrived Oct. 23—lugging a 50-pound, two-track Crown recorder and four pricey mikes—and he left with 90 minutes of near-flawless music. The tape was heard only once on the radio then forgotten.

On Tuesday, the rare material will finally be released on "Bill Evans Live at Art D'Lugoff's Top of the Gate" (Resonance)—a two-CD set that rivals Evans's revered Village Van recordings for Riverside in June '61. The unearthed music is frighteningly vivid—like being seated at a table on stage amid the musicians.

Today, Evans is a cult figure among jazz fans. Easily the most exquisite pianist of the 1960s, Evans redefined the piano trio after departing the Miles Davis Sextet in late 1958. Painfully introverted and sublimely subtle, Evans during this period performed with his forehead inches from the keyboard and his mouth slightly agape.

All of Evans's poetic qualities are here. The new CDs feature the evening's two sets, just as they were heard that night. Evans makes exceptional use of left-hand pedal tones w unleashing suspenseful, springing lines with his right. You also hear bassist Eddie Gomez and newly arrived drummer Marty Morell working to jell around the pianist's convey playing style.

"Bill was particularly energetic that night, and there was a lot of exploration and excitement by the trio," Mr. Morell said. "I had just joined, so what you hear is us getting to k each other musically." As for that enterprising college student and budding engineer, George Klabin, he now owns Resonance Records.

—Marc Myers

Copyright 2012 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our Subscriber Agreement and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please con Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit www.djreprints.com

Don't Miss...

Powered by

LIFESTYLE

UFC Champ Jon Jones Prepares to Fight

03:45

LIFESTYLE

Gourmet Dining, Location Undisclosed

01:45

LIFESTYLE

Miss USA Weighs In on Facebook IPO

05:02

LIFESTYLE

Mario Lopez on Growing Latino Audience

01:28

Don't Miss...

Powered by Taboola

UFC Champ Jon Jones Prepares to Fight 03:45

Mario Lopez on His Career, Boxing, and His Future 07:32

TV Clip: 'Episodes' 00:30

From Around the Web

Powered by Taboola

Content From Sponsors

Jane Oriente sentenced to prison Pittsburgh Post Gazette

6 Tech Stocks for Dividends Kiplinger

Video: Scoring the best online discounts MSNBC