

Bill Evans Time Remembered Three Reviews of the Film At Chicago's CIMMFest 2016



Few jazz pianists had Bill Evans's touch: his distinct sound was both resonant and delicate. Influenced equally by Bach and Bud Powell, Evans created an elegant, fluid, frequently introspective style that was unusual during the post- and hard-bop eras; he strongly influenced the development of modal jazz, particularly Miles Davis's *Kind of Blue* (to which he contributed as a player and writer). As smooth as Evans's music could be, his personal life was turbulent: he was a junkie, his drug addiction alienated him from his children, and both his common-law wife of many years and his schizophrenic brother committed suicide. Director Bruce Spiegel hits all the right notes of this sad song, condensing Evans's biography and conveying his significance in a snappy narrative. With Tony Bennett, Jack DeJohnette, Orrin Keepnews, Paul Motian.

– *Chicago Reader (Chicago Sun Times)*, April 13, 2016

BILL EVANS: TIME REMEMBERED: “Bill Evans: Time Remembered” is a sophisticated doc with grade-A storytelling, overcoming any dusty video quality with an exhilarating focus on a fascinating life. Director Bruce Spiegel’s doc is a story of a genius, the jazz pianist and composer Bill Evans, and how he rose from a type of prodigy to a wonder of the genre, especially as a key collaborator with Miles Davis on the likes of “*Kind of Blue*.” Evans’ tragedies are expressed with delicate filmmaking, enlivened by personal talking heads who all seem to be sitting in their homes during the interviews (a warming homemade touch among many). Like the best of music docs, it never hesitates to dissect the great technical qualities of Evans, or to paint a picture of the jazz scene that’s wider than just one brush stroke. Along with being a full, emotional portrait as intimate as a friendly conversation, it is jazz geekery unleashed, the type of feature-length ode that you can only find at venues like CIMMFest.

– *Nick Allen with Roger Ebert Film Critics in Chicago*, April 13, 2016

<http://www.rogerebert.com/festivals-and-awards/chicago-international-music-and-movies-festival-2016-preview>
www.billevanstimeremembered.com

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This is a pleasure for jazz aficionados, a stirring, haunting film devoted to the great pianist/composer. As one rememberer puts it, Bill Evans, hunched over in communion with his contemplative, dreamlike piano, told stories in his playing. Particular catnip for connoisseurs: the sections covering Evans's time playing with the Miles Davis Sextet, particularly the world-historic, cool-walkin' "Kind of Blue" sessions in 1959. We hear the beautiful "Flamenco Sketches," based around Evans' signature modal sound (it's based on his "Peace Piece"). Like Satie, this music somehow feels both still and in motion at once, evoking time and space, the turning of the earth. Particularly well-selected photographs capture the jovial spirit of Cannonball Adderly one hears in the grooves of "Kind of Blue." Photographs of Evans's girlfriend Peri Cousins, for whom he wrote "Peri's Scope," are as vivid and unforgettable as stills of a Golden Age actress.

We also get glimpses of the storied days of the Bill Evans Trio, with bassist Scott Lafaro and drummer Paul Motian, and their legendary two-week stand at the Village Vanguard in 1961. We learn about Evans's loving bond with his brother, Harry, though his story ends sadly. (Bill wrote "Waltz for Debby" for Harry's daughter Debby, who is interviewed in the film remembering her dad and her uncle). Evans's life was more marked than most by tragedy. The dapper man became a selfish junkie, while still remaining a musician's musician.

Making a good music documentary is the art of editing, even more so than in most films. One must start with good interviews, then chop and stir them evocatively into good performance footage and photographs. Bruce Spiegel has made a well-turned picture in this mold. His film sings and illuminates, and we get to hear plenty of Evans's beautiful piano. Tony Bennett, interviewed in the film, calls his collaboration with Evans his favorite of his career, and leaves us with something Evans once said to him, words he tries to live by: "Search only for truth and beauty."

- Scott Pfeiffer, *The Moving World*, April 13, 2016

BILL EVANS TIME REMEMBERED

A DOCUMENTARY FILM
ABOUT THE LIFE AND
MUSIC OF BILL EVANS

PRODUCED BY
BRUCE SPIEGEL

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