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Jazz Standards For Piano (Piano Solo Songbook)



Synopsis

(Piano Solo Songbook). Jazz Standards for Piano Solo is arranged by Tom Coppola, who has toured with the likes of Peggy Lee and Marvin Gaye, recorded with Herbie Mann and Paul Simon, and wrote, arranged and produced music for Saturday Night Live from 1984-1990.

Book Information

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Hal Leonard (January 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0793586712

ISBN-13: 978-0793586714

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.1 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

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Jazz Standards for Piano Solo arranged by Tom Coppola, is the best book in this genre. I never do reviews, but felt compelled after reading other reviews of buyers who were not five star pleased. First, the songs: Just because your tastes are not sophisticated enough to recognized the quality of the selections, doesn't mean the songs aren't first rate - they are. If you are unfamiliar with these songs, again, don't take away stars. Spend the time and learn them - they are beautiful, with good strong melodies by some of the best songwriters. The songs in this book are tunes that someone like Bill Evans might play, and has played. The arrangements are simple, (but not simplistic), uncluttered, no solo lines written in, no busy patterns added. These tunes stand on the

tonal quality, the lush sound of the voicings, something that one would like to hear late at night in a quaint piano bar; they are moody, pensive, a joy for the ears. Secondly, the left hand: Players who have done even a little work on chord voicing know that if you can't reach a full tenth, you have three options - 1.) play the root and the 3rd, which is the same note as the 10th but an octave lower. 2.) roll the notes, playing them staggered, one after the other. (Joey Alexander, the kid jazz wiz, has small hands and does this a lot.) 3.) just play the root. Whatever you do, don't whine about these arrangements. They are extremely well thought out, concentrating on the overall sound, the mood of the melody, the beauty of the chords and the way they are voiced. I own 7 of the Hal Leonard Jazz Piano Solo books (Jazz For Lovers, Jazz Ballads, Cocktail Jazz, Antonio Carlos Jobim, George Gershwin, Silver Screen Jazz, and Bill Evans) and although they are well done, most of the arrangements are overly complex, (with solos that aren't necessarily what the player would create), sometimes to the point where it's hard to hear the melody. This book has the feel of what we expect in these types of songs. Tom Coppola has arranged these songs so that even an early intermediate player can get the "essence" of Bill Evans. If you play for others, these songs will get you complements like "nice, beautiful, and tasteful". If you play for yourself, these arrangements will be a treat for your ears. Sometimes, the chord changes and voicings are so pleasant, I find myself just repeating those passages. And late at night, under the headphones, you will be transported to piano Nirvana. All in all, for under ten bucks, this book, Jazz Standards for Piano Solo by Tom Coppola, will give you a solid 19 songs for your repertoire. I wish Tom Coppola would do more books like this one; I'd buy them all.

Promised quality arrangements are not really working, especially for the majority of "regular" piano students/players who don't have a hand span for way too often used intervals of 10th and more in the left hand. Also the selection of the "Standards" is poor, a good half of them could be replaced by more famous/better sounding tunes, and more inspiring music. Disappointed.

As a long time struggling keyboardist, I find this book challenging. But it has given me several chord usages that are varied that I can use. I particularly like the choice of songs - especially "How High the Moon". Only drawback is I wish the words in these charts.

Wonderful composition of some classic jazz that is easy to play. Makes a club jazz piano player out of the everyday piano player.

I bought this book so that my music teacher and I don't have to struggle to find items in my key - kind of low for a gal. It even has a disk included that one can practice and sing along. Good choice of standards too.

This is a fun book to play!

Really beautiful arrangements of some jazz classics. I've been playing mostly classical piano for over 40 years and I found some of the fingering in these tunes quite challenging. I'm very happy with this collection.

I am short on words but I like this book. The title is correct. Check the chords. They look funky but after checking the notes they sound good, if different. I use this book for fun with chords. My wife likes to listen to me play them, and then add to the scores.

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