

Based on the Changes to

# Impressions

As Played by Wes Montgomery  
On the album *Smokin' at the Half Note*

This album was an album that stirred a lot of controversy in the Jazz world. One would think that from the title of the album that it would have been an entirely live set but much of the album was recorded at Rudy van Gelder's studio in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. The 1965 album features the same rhythm as is featured on Miles Davis' famous Kind of Blue record; bassist Paul Chambers, pianist Wynton Kelly and drummer Jimmy Cobb. Only two of the original LP's five tracks were recorded at the Half Note ("No Blues" and "If You Could See Me Now.") At the behest of producer Creed Taylor, the other three were re-recorded three months later at Rudy Van Gelder's studio in New Jersey. An album called "Willow Weep for Me" was posthumously released from the remaining live tracks. This record included string and brass arrangements by Claus Ogerman on "Willow Weep for Me", "Portrait of Jennie," "Oh! You Crazy Moon," and "Misty" that were obviously not a part of the original live session at the Half Note and these arrangements were panned by the critics. Later the album was rereleased with the first five tracks are from the original Verve LP. Tracks six through eleven are from the Willow Weep for Me album without that album's string and brass arrangements. Impressions is what is known as a "derivative work", a work based upon one or more pre-existing works. Its chord sequence is identical to that of Miles Davis' "So What" (16 bars of Dm7, 8 bars of Ebm7, and 8 bars of Dm7). The song is a variant of Davis' song that Coltrane had long explored as a member of the Miles Davis quintet. The original recording of the song is an up tempo tenor onslaught, a blistering, sustained exploration in which Coltrane and drummer Elvin Jones established new parameters for intensity and sheer physicality. Both songs originate in Ahmad Jamal's 1955 cover of Morton Gould's "Pavanne" which makes Impressions a double derivative. The quartet sets the D and Eb dorian changes of "Impressions" on fire. En fuego!! Montgomery's solo is chalked full of superior melodic expression. He epitomizes power and assurance with his note selections. On the other hand, Kelly is no slouch either. He's kind of like the Vice President, you know he's there waiting and when it's his turn to take the driver's seat, he'll get the job done. His interaction with Montgomery during his solo shows just how close these two musical minds were. During several moments of Montgomery's solo, he and Kelly accent right on time with each other. You can hear Wes laughing in joy on the track in the background. This was by far one of Montgomery's tour de force songs. This song is the very definition of what we know as swing and an excellent example of modal playing on guitar.

**A** Dm7

T A B

0 2 3 0 2 3 0 2 1 /2 0 /2 3 0

8 **A'**

T A B

7 8 7 5 6 5 7 8 7 5 6 5 0 /2 3 0 2 3 0 2 1 /2

2 14

TAB: 0 0 2 0 2 0 | 11 8 | 12 13 9 10 | 6 6 6 6 6 6 | 11 8 /13 /10

19

TAB: 10 8 | 6 6 6 6 6 6 | 10 11 14 8 8 11 | 12 13 9 10 | 6 6 6 6 6 6 | X 11 X 8 13 13 10 11 | 9 10 7 8 | 6 6 6 6 6 6 | 6 6 6 6 6 6

24 A'' Dm7

TAB: 3 2 1 || 0 | 2 3 0 | 2 3 0 | 2 1 /2

30 1 Dm7

TAB: 0 2 3 0 | 6 7 6 7 || 6 7 | 5 3 5 3 6

35

TAB: 5 3 1 2 3 2 0 0 | 2 3 6 3 6 3 /5 6 3 2

41

TAB: /5 /5 /5 /5 | /10 8 10 8 10 | /10 8 10 8 10 | /10 8 10 8 10

47 Eb7m

TAB: 7 9 | 10 8 10 8 7 | 10 13 11 | 9 11 9 11 9 | 10 11 11 14 13 16

51

TAB: 13 9 13 9 | 11 9 | 11 8 11 8 | 6 9 8 6 | 7 6 8 6 3 4 5

56 Dm7

TAB: 6 5 6 4 5 6 4 | 3 6 7 5 7 9 | 8 9 8 9 8 6 5 7 | 5 7 4 5 4 2 3 0

60

TAB: 7 6 8 5 8 7 5 5 6 7 6 5 8 | 12 15 12 15 | 13 10 8 10 9 | 12 10

65 Dm7

TAB: 10 13 | 11 12 10 12 10 | 10 10 13 12 10 12 12 9 10 12 10 | 10 10 13 12

70

TAB: 10 12 12 9 10 12 10 | 10 10 13 12 10 12 12 9 10 12 10 | 10 10 13 12 16 15

75

T  
A  
B

80  $E\flat m7$

T  
A  
B

84

T  
A  
B

88  $Dm7$

T  
A  
B

93  $Dm7$

T  
A  
B

98

T  
A  
B

104

104

T A B

5 8 5 7 7 5 7 7 5 7 7 5 7 7 5 7 7

3 3

110

110

110 Ebm7

T A B

5 7 7 5 9 13 13 9 11 11

3 7 7 6 10 10 6 8 11 9

115

115

T A B

10 9 10 9 10 11 9 11 11 12 13 9 10 12 7 8 9 6 7 8

8 7 8 7 8 8 6 8 8 9 10 6 7 9 4 5 6 3 4 5

119

119

119 Dm7

T A B

9 10 11 7 8 9 8 10 11 8 7 7 7 5 7 7 7

6 7 8 4 5 6 6 8 9 6 3 5 3

124

124

124 Dm7

T A B

5 7 7 5 7 7 10 10 13 12 12

3 7 7 3 7 7 8 7 10 9 9

130

130

T A B

10 7 12 12 9 9 9 9 10 10 12 13 13 12 13 12 13 12

8 9 10 7 7 7 7 8 7 9 10 10 9 10 9 10 9

6

136

|   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| T | 13 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 10 | 13 | 12 | 15 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| A | 10 | 9  | 9  | 12 | 14 | 7  | 10 | 9  | 12 | 7  | 10 | 10 | 9  | 9  | 7  | 7  | 5 | 5 |
| B |    |    |    | 12 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |

142

|   |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |
|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|
| T | 12 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 8 |
| A | 12 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 8 |
| B | 10 | 9  | 8  | 7  | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8  | 6 | 5 | 10 | 8  | 6 | 5 |

148

|   |    |    |   |    |   |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| T | 12 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 13 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A | 9  | 8  | 6 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B | 9  | 8  | 6 | 8  | 6 | 8  | 6 | 6 | 9  | 8  | 8  | 9  | 8  | 8  |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

153

|   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| T | 12 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| A | 9  | 10 | 10 | 9  | 9  | 10 | 10 | 9  | 9  | 10 | 10 | 9  | 9  | 10 | 10 | 9  | 9  | 10 | 10 | 9  | 9  | 10 | 10 |
| B |    | 8  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 8  | 7  |

158

|   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| T | 12 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| A | 9  | 9  | 10 | 9  | 9  | 10 | 9  | 9  | 9  | 9  | 10 | 9  | 9  | 9  | 10 | 9  | 9  | 9  | 9  | 10 | 9  | 9  | 9  |
| B | 7  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 8  | 7  | 7  | 7  |

163

|   |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| T | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| A | 7  | 10 | 7  | 10 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| B |    | 8  | 7  | 8  | 5 | 8  | 5 | 5 | 7 | 8  | 10 | 7  | 9  | 10 | 7  | 9  | 10 | 7  | 9  | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

169

T 10 10 10 9 10 10 8 10 10 12 10 10 10 9 10 10 8 10 12

A 7 7 7 6 7 7 5 7 7 9 7 7 7 6 7 7 5 7 9

B

173

T 12 13 10 10 10 10 8 10 11 13 9 11 13

A 9 10 7 7 7 9 10 10 7 7 9 10 5 7 8 13 6 8 10

B 7 8 8 5 5 7 8 5 7 8 10 6 8 10

Ebm7

178

T 14 13 11 13 11 11 10 8 6 5 4 3 8 9 13 11 9

A 11 10 8 10 8 9 8 6 4 3 2 1 6 6 10 8 6

B 10 8 10 8 6 4 3 2 1 4 6 6 10 8 6

183

T 13 11 9 11 10 8 7 5 7 8 7 10 7 7 7 10 8

A 10 8 6 11 8 6 5 3 5 5 5 8 5 5 5 8 5

B 9 8 6 5 3 5 5 5 8 5 5 8 5 5 5 8 5

Dm7

188

T 7 10 7 7 7 10 8 8 7 7 10 8 7 7 7 10 8 7

A 5 8 5 5 5 8 5 5 7 7 10 5 4 7 7 10 8 4

B 5 8 5 5 5 8 5 5 5 5 8 5 5 5 5 8 5 4

6

193 Dm7

T 7 8 10 12 7 8 10 12 7 8 10 12 7 8 9 12

A 7 10 8 4 5 7 9 7 10 8 4 5 7 9 7 10 8 4 5 6 9

B 5 8 5 5 8 5 5 8 5 5 8 5 5 8 5 8 5

Dm7

199

T 12 10 8 12 10 8 12 12 13 10 12 12 15 12 15 12  
 A 9 7 5 9 7 5 10 9 9 9 10 7 9 12 9 9 12 9  
 B 9 7 5 9 7 5 8 7 9 10 9 10 7 9 10 7 9

204

T 15 8 12 8 10 10 13 10 13 9 12 7 10 7 10 7 10 7 10 7 10  
 A 12 5 9 5 7 7 10 7 10 9 12 7 10 7 10 7 10 7 10 7 10  
 B 12 5 9 5 7 7 10 7 10 7 10 5 8 5 8 5 8 5 8 5 8

208

*E<sub>b</sub>m7*

T 10 13 10 13 13 13 13 16 13 13 13 13 9 9 9 9  
 A 7 10 7 10 10 10 14 10 13 10 10 14 10 11 6 6 11  
 B 7 10 7 10 11 11 11 10 13 11 10 11 8 8 6 8

214

*Dm7*

T 9 12 13 16 13 9 11 15 12 13 10 12 13 10  
 A 6 9 10 13 10 6 8 11 12 9 10 7 9 10 7  
 B 9 10 13 16 8 9 11 12 10 7 9 10 7 9 10 7

219

T 9 10 9 5 7 7 9 10 8 10 12 8 10  
 A 7 7 7 5 7 5 7 10 5 7 9 5 7  
 B 7 7 7 3 5 5 7 8 5 7 9 5 7

224

*C#o7* *Dm9* *E<sub>b</sub>m9* *Dm9* *C#o7* *Dm9* *E<sub>b</sub>m9* *Dm9* *C#o7* *Dm9*

T 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12  
 A 11 10 10 10 11 10 10 10 11 10  
 B 11 10 10 10 11 10 10 10 11 10



229 Ebm9 Dm9 C#o7 Dm9 Ebm9 Dm9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 Dm9 C#o7 Dm9 9

T  
A  
B

234 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 Dm9 C#o7 Dm9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 Dm9 C#o7 Dm9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9

T  
A  
B

239 Dm9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 Dm9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 Ebm9 D#o7 Ebm9 F#m9 Fm9 Em9

T  
A  
B

243 Ebm9 D#o7 Ebm9 F#m9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 D#o7 Ebm9 F#m9 Fm9 Em9

T  
A  
B

247 Ebm9 F#m9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 F#m9 Fm9 Em9 Dm9 C#o7 Dm9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9

T  
A  
B

251 Dm9 C#o7 Dm9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 Dm9 C#o7 Dm9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 Dm9 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9

T  
A  
B

10

256 Dm9 A7(b13) 8 Dm9

Musical notation for measures 10-19. Treble clef, 12-string guitar. Chords: Dm9, A7(b13), Dm9. Includes tablature and fret numbers.

261

Em7 Dm9 Fm7 Em7

Musical notation for measures 20-25. Treble clef, 12-string guitar. Chords: Em7, Dm9, Fm7, Em7. Includes tablature and fret numbers.

267

Dm9 Fm7 Em7 Dm7 Ebm9 Dm9

Fm7 Em7

Musical notation for measures 26-31. Treble clef, 12-string guitar. Chords: Dm9, Fm7, Em7, Dm7, Ebm9, Dm9, Fm7, Em7. Includes tablature and fret numbers.

271

Dm9 Fm7 Em7 Dm7 Ebm9 Dm9 Ebm9 Gbm7 Fm7

Musical notation for measures 32-37. Treble clef, 12-string guitar. Chords: Dm9, Fm7, Em7, Dm7, Ebm9, Dm9, Ebm9, Gbm7, Fm7. Includes tablature and fret numbers.

275

Ebm9 Gbm7 Fm7 Ebm7 Fm7 Ebm7 Ebm9 Gbm7 Fm7

Musical notation for measures 38-43. Treble clef, 12-string guitar. Chords: Ebm9, Gbm7, Fm7, Ebm7, Fm7, Ebm7, Ebm9, Gbm7, Fm7. Includes tablature and fret numbers.

279

Ebm9 Gbm7 Fm7 Ebm7 Fm7 Ebm7 Dm9 Fm7 Em7

Musical notation for measures 44-49. Treble clef, 12-string guitar. Chords: Ebm9, Gbm7, Fm7, Ebm7, Fm7, Ebm7, Dm9, Fm7, Em7. Includes tablature and fret numbers.

283 **Dm9** **Fm7 Em7 Dm7 Ebm9 Dm9** **Fm7 Em7** **Dm9** **Fm7** <sup>11</sup>

TAB

288 **Em7 Dm7 Em7 Ebm9** **Dm9**

TAB

292 **Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 Dm9** **Fm9 Em9 Ebm9**

TAB

297 **Dm9** **Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 Dm9**

TAB

302 **Fm9 Em9 Ebm9** **Ebm9**

TAB

306 **F#m9 Fm9 Em9** **Ebm9**

TAB

310 F#m9 Fm9 Em9 Dm9

TAB

314 Fm9 Em9 Ebm9 Dm9

TAB

319 Eb9 C#m9 [A] Dm7

TAB

325 [A']

TAB

332 [B] Ebm7

TAB

338

TAB

344

A''

Musical notation for measure 344. The treble clef staff shows a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The guitar tablature staff shows the following fret numbers: 6 6 6 (4 4 4) | 0 | 2 3 0 | 2 3 0 | 2 1 2.

350

Tag

Dm7

Musical notation for measure 350. The treble clef staff shows a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The guitar tablature staff shows the following fret numbers: 0 2 3 0 | 7 7 7 | 8 7 5 | 7 7 8 | 7 5.

356

Musical notation for measure 356. The treble clef staff shows a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The guitar tablature staff shows the following fret numbers: 7 7 8 | 7 5 | 7 7 8 | 7 5 | 7 7 8 | 10 7 5.

362

Musical notation for measure 362. The treble clef staff shows a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The guitar tablature staff shows the following fret numbers: 12 8 | 6 7 5 | 6 10 | 9 5 | 3 7 | 3 7.

365

Musical notation for measure 365. The treble clef staff shows a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3. The guitar tablature staff shows the following fret numbers: 12 7 5 | 7 8 10 7 5 | 9 7 5 | 5 5 7 | 7 7 5 | 7 5.