

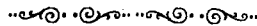
5 JAZZ PIANO SOLOS

BY

Art **TATUM**

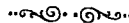
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Frank **PAPARELLI**



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PIANOTATIONS

AN ANALYSIS OF ART TATUM'S PIANO STYLE BY FRANK PAPARELLI

Art Tatum is unique in his exploitation of the solo jazz piano. The Tatum piano is the product of a large musical mind, imagination, taste and a subtle sense of rhythm. Tatum's hands are relaxed stooges for his musical ideas. The left hand might go off on a harmonic spree, continue the melodic figuration of the right, or even become "tacit" if a rest is more effective than a note. Tatum's music is never stale, dull or pointless; it is vital; it has something to say, it says it fluently and it has rhythm.

Play these compositions in their proper context: with a jazz feeling. The exceptions (as in the final strains of "Gang C' Nothin'" and "Night Scene" and marked "ad lib") are instances wherein Tatum switches from a Jazz improvisation to a modern concert improvisation. Take a tempo that is right for the figurations. For example, don't put "Jumpin' for Sumpin'" in the same groove with "Live Jive".

In the following passage, don't achieve a mathematical interpretation by trying to fit one hand into the other.

Musically, the right hand is an independent *impression* against the left hand. The right hand has a tonality, phrasing and rhythm all its own.

Before you start practicing the following figure from "Live Jive" remember that you're trying to get it to swing.

If you simply strive for a mechanical mastery, the figure will become a meaningless jumble of notes.

In situations like the following, have the hands ready so that there is no delay in going from one hand to the other.

The slightest delay will upset the groove.

To render the music more accessible, all unusual and intricate passages have been fingered. This fingering is far from conventional, but it is strictly logical for the demands of the music in question, and it works. Before you finger a passage yourself, consider the *phrasing*, *point* and *swing* of the passage.

At all times play with relaxation. So much for suggestions. In the following pages are the notes Tatum plays. Take over from here.