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STAN GETZ

(1927 – 1991)

Tenor saxophonist Stan Getz was nicknamed "The Sound" for his warm lyrical tone. He got his first big break playing in Woody Herman's band in the late 1940s. He had formed the Four Brothers saxophone group that was essential to the sound of Woody Herman's Second Herd. He soon became celebrated for his ballad playing.

Inspired by Lester Young, the Getz playing style was one of a relaxed approach, as opposed to the uptempo, bustling style of players such as Coleman Hawkins. Along the way, he fell into the common traps of alcohol and heroin, addictions that consumed most of his life. "The best way to play is completely sober, loose and happy...or unhappy" he once said.

Stan Getz was probably best known for his bossa nova work in the 1960s, especially with the hit single "Girl from Ipanema." The song helped to popularize the new musical style, which was originated by Brazilian musicians who combined traditional native folk music with a modern jazz bent.

Describing himself, Getz once said, "My life is music, and in some vague, mysterious and subconscious way, I have always been driven by a taut inner spring which has propelled me to almost compulsively reach for perfection in music, often – in fact, mostly – at the expense of everything else in my life."

Transposed for Eb instruments from the original Stan Getz Omnibook in Bb, some of the lower notes may be out of range. If a note, phrase or page is played up an octave, it may provide a solution, as well as broadening the player's musicality.

You'll find these helpful features in this "omni" volume:

- 54 note-for-note transcriptions
- Meticulous easy-to-read notation
- Chord symbols to facilitate analyzing the solos and to provide a framework for accompaniment
- Rehearsal letters
- Transcription reference included with the songtitle
- Rhythmic styles and metronome marks