

BRUBECK plays BRUBECK



attractive array of muted tones, while pianistically he draws fleetingly and deftly from several different styles, from baroque to Fats Waller, Ellington to slyly humorous cocktail chordings.

BRUBECK PLAYS BRUBECK is most notable, however, for the presence of the pianist's two best known tunes, the lovely, lilting "In Your Own Sweet Way" (recorded here by its composer for the first time; Miles Davis' version was cut about a month earlier) and "The Duke," which during its first eight bars moves with feline grace through all twelve keys. Both melodies have long since become widely covered modern jazz standards.

Remixed and remastered, **BRUBECK PLAYS BRUBECK** contains new photographs and some new thoughts by the pianist that supplant his original liner essay. Long out of print, the album is an underrated gem in the voluminous Brubeck discography.

BRUBECK PLAYS BRUBECK was a dual landmark for pianist-composer Dave Brubeck (b. 1920): it was at once his initial solo piano album and the first time he'd recorded a program comprised entirely of original pieces. For years, discographers presumed that these performances had been recorded at Columbia's New York studio; in fact, they were made at Brubeck's Oakland, Calif. home, which may well have contributed to the sense of reflective relaxation evident throughout. While leading his quartet that was then on the verge of attaining international popularity, Brubeck was sometimes chided by critics for heavy-handedness at the keyboard. But in this case, his work displays an irreproachably light touch and, to borrow a phrase from the great lyricist Alan Jay Lerner, it's "serenely independent" of the reigning jazz piano orthodoxies of the day.

Brubeck's detailed liner notes describe with characteristic modesty the nine numbers herein as "primarily sketches—a skeletal framework on which to improvise." His sketchbook reveals an



CB 701

CDM

- 1 **Swing Bells** 3:37
- 2 **Walkin' Line** 2:45
- 3 **In Your Own Sweet Way** 4:58
- 4 **Two-Part Contention** 5:37
- 5 **Weep No More** 3:57
- 6 **The Duke** 2:52
- 7 **When I Was Young** 3:17
- 8 **One Moment Worth Years** 4:53
- 9 **The Waltz** 3:49

ORIGINAL RECORDINGS
PRODUCED BY
GEORGE AVAKIAN

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