

Jimmy's Sketchbook Vol. 7

"Etude 26"

By Jimmy Wyble

In my opinion, etude 26 was one of the last tunes composed by Jimmy Wyble. Jimmy had this tune in his head for several years before we finally got around to writing it down and documenting the composition in late February and early March of 2009. I was very touched when he asked if he could dedicate the work to me. He decided to title it "Etude 26" and since it has been over 30 years since he wrote the first 25 etudes, I hoped that this would be the first in a new batch of compositions from this creative man. Unfortunately within a month of doing writing down this song, Jimmy contracted the staff infection that ultimately ended his life.

There are people that own Jimmy's book "*The Art Of Two Line Improvisation*" who think that the etudes were a series of worked out improvisations based on standards. Jimmy will be the first one to tell you this is incorrect but Etude 26 will not disprove that theory. This is truly the first etude where a song definitely emerges from the improvised feel. This composition hints at the jazz standard "*Alone Together*". Jimmy said that he was thinking of that song but not trying to do anything more than keep the thread of the melody coming in and out of this work. He definitely accomplished that goal. The section letters mark the areas of the composition where the melody is hinted and teased throughout the framework of the piece.

The introduction is a combination of several of Jimmy's favorite exercises and he used those moves to help him warm up and play this song in public. He said that it gets him going and puts him in the right frame of mind and spirit to play the piece. If you want to go back and review some of the lessons, the first idea of Major 7(#11) chords are described in the "Harmonic Comparisons" lesson page 1. This idea moves down in whole steps before a new diminished idea is introduced. This diminished idea is explained on page 2 of the lesson "Contrapuntal Concepts".

If you are looking for something extremely hip to play as a rubato introduction to the tune "Alone Together", look no further than this composition.

I would like to say thank you to Frederic Loiseau. He was visiting with Jimmy from France and had the good sense to record Jimmy playing this work. This was recorded in Jimmy's living room. Thank you for letting me share this recording on my website. The recording doesn't match my transcription exactly. I wrote down what Jimmy played for me and by comparing the recording to the manuscript it is easy to follow but also easy to understand how Jimmy probably never played the same thing two times in a row. That was his genius and creative spirit.

I hope that this composition will become part of your repertoire as well.

David Oakes
April 30, 2010

