

Bob Brookmeyer was long considered one of the top valve trombonists in jazz and a very advanced arranger whose writing was influenced by modern classical music. He started out as a pianist in dance bands but played valve trombone with Stan Getz (1953). He gained fame as a member of the Gerry Mulligan quartet (1954-1957), was part of the unusual Jimmy Giuffre Three of 1957-1958 (which consisted of Giuffre's reeds, Brookmeyer's valve trombone, and Jim Hall's guitar), and then re-joined Mulligan as arranger and occasional player with his Concert Jazz Band. Brookmeyer, who was a strong enough pianist to hold his own on a two-piano date with Bill Evans, occasionally switched to piano with Mulligan. He co-led a part-time quintet with Clark Terry (1961-1966), was an original member of the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis orchestra (1965-1967), and became a busy studio musician. Brookmeyer was fairly inactive during much of the '70s, but made a comeback in the late '70s with some very advanced arrangements for the Mel Lewis band (of which he became musical director for a time). Brookmeyer moved to Europe, where he continually wrote and occasionally recorded on his distinctive valve trombone, issuing *Old Friends* in 1998. *New Works Celebration* appeared a year later, and in 2000 he issued *Together*. Brookmeyer continued to perform and release albums through the next decade, often working with his European big band The New Art Orchestra including 2002's *Waltzing with Zoe*, 2004's *Get Well Soon*, and 2007's *Spirit Music*. In 2008, he explored his deep interest in classical music with *Music for String Quartet and Orchestra*. He wrote innovative big-band compositions and was highly regarded as a teacher: his classes at the New England Conservatory of Music are the stuff of legend. On December 15, 2011, Brookmeyer died in his sleep at a hospital near his home in Grantham, New Hampshire; the cause was congestive heart failure. He passed just a month after releasing the album *Standards* via the ArtistShare website, and only three days shy of his 82nd birthday.



# BOB BROOKMEYER AND FRIENDS

**STAN GETZ**

**HERBIE HANCOCK**

**GARY BURTON**

**RON CARTER**

**ELVIN JONES**



Brookmeyer's "Jive Hoot" can hardly have disturbed Macero? Burton says he was amazed at the friendly reception Brookmeyer gave him when he arrived unexpected bearing vibes. Brookmeyer even fixed out some of the arrangements to include him, and however "Jive Hoot" might have sounded without him it is marvellous with him. People who've heard his amazing new quintet should notice the young Burton's slightly squarer phrasing with its tonal spread. Brookmeyer plays a chorus on a "Misty" which has Getz at his tenderest.

"The Wrinkle" has some echoes of Mingus, melodically and rhythmically, but soft, with unaccompanied stop-time passages in each solo, after each of which Ron Carter brings things on. On "Bracket", Brookmeyer is more in the bag of Mingus' stalwart the late Jimmy Knepper. Jones participates in the vigorous but urbane chase choruses which conclude the number.

The set is something of a period piece, incidental to the quality of the music. It ain't demanding stuff, but nice.

Macero wanted wide appeal and got it.

"Skylark" does, however, have some interesting melodic invention, and Getz playing in accompaniment to other soloists. Soothing. The horns also work well together on "Something Else". With "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face" there's no dearth of ballad interest. Brookmeyer mellow and Getz in the same passionate tender mode as on "Misty".

The original closer, Gershwin's "Who Cares", is distinguished by the mighty drumming of Elvin Jones as both outstanding accompanist to Brookmeyer's solo and as soloist himself. Jones overall shows just what variety of range he had. "Day Dream" has Bennett singing words to a Johnny Hodges tune on a set where Getz does now and then recall Hodges.



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**STAN GETZ**  
**HERBIE HANCOCK**  
**GARY BURTON**  
**RON CARTER**  
**ELVIN JONES**

- 1 Jive Hoot 4:43
- 2 Misty 5:15
- 3 The Wrinkle 5:16
- 4 Bracket 4:58
- 5 Skylark 5:01
- 6 Sometime Ago 4:05
- 7 I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face 5:03
- 8 Who Cares 7:04
- Total Time: 41:25

Transferred from a Columbia 4-track tape    Recorded in New York City - May, 1964  
Producer – Teo Macero



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