



The Oscar Peterson Trio



Oscar Peterson, in full Oscar Emmanuel Peterson, (born August 15, 1925, Montreal, Quebec, Canada—died December 23, 2007, Mississauga, Ontario), Canadian jazz pianist best known for his dazzling solo technique.

In 1949 Peterson went to the United States, where he appeared in one of jazz promoter Norman Granz's concerts at Carnegie Hall, New York City. He was associated with Granz for most of the rest of his career, touring the world with Granz's all-star Jazz at the Philharmonic troupe and recording prolifically for Granz's record labels. Art Tatum and especially Nat King Cole were important influences on Peterson's style. Like Cole's early trio, the Oscar Peterson Trio that first became popular featured piano, bass (Ray Brown), and guitar, most notably Herb Ellis (1953–58). When Ellis left the group, he was replaced by drummer Ed Thigpen (1959–65).

Cascades of many notes characterized Peterson's

playing. His earlier work, if often glib, was nevertheless invariably swinging. In the 1970s he began playing frequent solo concerts and duets, often with bassist Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen. These proved the most rewarding medium for his talents, and he became one of the most popular jazz pianists of his time. His 1974–75 duet albums with trumpeters Dizzy Gillespie, Roy Eldridge, Harry Edison, Clark Terry, and Jon Faddis demonstrated generous warmth and sensitivity. His recordings won eight Grammy Awards. In 1999 he received the Japan Art Association's Praemium Imperiale prize for music.

Peterson continued to perform until 2006, although his public appearances became sporadic after a stroke in 1993 affected the use of his left hand as well as his ability to walk. He was the author of *Jazz Exercises and Pieces* (1965) and *Oscar Peterson New Piano Solos* (1965). His autobiography, *A Jazz Odyssey: The Life of Oscar Peterson*, was published in 2002.



The Trio Live From Chicago - The Oscar Peterson Trio

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- 1 I've Never Been In Love Before 5:32
- 2 In The Wee Small Hours Of The Morning 8:00
- 3 Chicago 8:50
- 4 The Night We Called It A Day 4:40
- 5 Sometimes I'm Happy 11:36
- 6 Whisper Not 5:43
- 7 Billy Boy 1:40

Piano - Oscar Peterson Bass - Ray Brown Drums - Ed Thigpen
 Recorded by Verve in July 1961 at The London House, Chicago
 Engineer [Recording] – Val Valentin Producer – Jim Davis

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