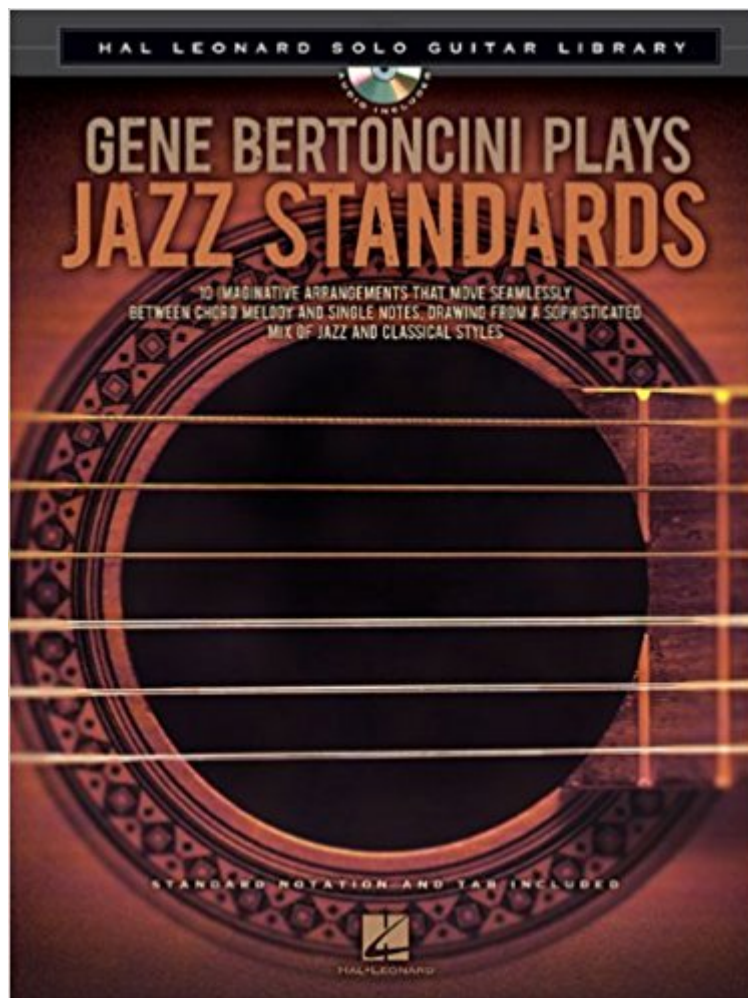




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# Gene Bertoncini Plays Jazz Standards - Hal Leonard Solo Guitar Library (Book/CD)



## Synopsis

(Guitar Solo). 10 imaginative arrangements that move seamlessly between chord melody and single notes drawing from a sophisticated mix of jazz and classical styles. Gene Bertoncini is one of the pre-eminent jazz guitarists active today. His elegant blend of jazz and classical styles has won him international accolades as the Segovia of jazz. The arrangements in this book/CD are selections from his acclaimed albums *Body and Soul* and *Quiet Now* with original audio tracks included! Songs include: *Body and Soul* \* *Edelweiss* \* *I Remember You* \* *My Funny Valentine* \* *Sophisticated Lady* \* *Stardust* \* and more.

## Book Information

Series: Hal Leonard Solo Guitar Library

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Hal Leonard Corporation; Pap/Com edition (December 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1458418421

ISBN-13: 978-1458418425

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.1 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #688,570 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #334 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Specific Artist](#) #499 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Jazz](#) #864 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Jazz](#)

## Customer Reviews

The fact that this collection exists at all is cause for celebration. These ten arrangements come from the albums "Body and Soul" (1999) and "Quiet Now" (2005), which are both brilliant recitals from start to finish. I don't have much to add to the chorus of 5-star reviews already on this page, but I do have a plea for this project to continue with a Vol. 2. Here's the tunes in Vol. 1: *Body And Soul* *Cavatina* *Edelweiss* *How Are Things In Glocca Morra* *I Remember You* *My Funny Valentine* *My One And Only Love* *Quiet Now* *Sophisticated Lady* *Stardust* *Between the two albums are another 17* tunes (some linked together in 2-song medley arrangements), including a few intriguing choices such as Claude Thornhill's "Snowfall," the theme from "Bang the Drum Slowly" (based on "Streets of Laredo," which was based on the Irish ballad "The Unfortunate Rake"), Jobim's ballad "Olha Maria,"

Tadd Dameron's "On a Misty Night," a heartbreaking beautiful version of Puccini's "Nessun Dorma," and Schumann's "Träumerei," A full list of what got left out includes: The Shadow of Your Smile, Round Midnight, But Beautiful, Greensleeves, Snowfall, Lush Life / Isfahan, Giant Steps / On a Misty Night, Träumerei, So In Love / The More I See You, Olha Maria, Nessun Dorma, Waltz for Debby / Very Early, Theme from "Bang the Drum Slowly." It's been almost 10 years since "Quiet Now" was released, and who knows if there will be any more solo guitar arrangements coming from Gene. I hope so. I also hope Jason Ennis, the transcriber of this collection, might have transcribed all of the music on Body and Soul and Quiet Now, or if not, may yet complete the task with Gene's input. One additional note about the balance between arrangement and improvisation on the albums and in this collection of printed music: In the preface to this collection, Ennis writes "This book falls somewhere in between a transcription book and a collection of arrangements. The process of notating each song began by copying Gene's original hand-written manuscripts. The pieces were then fleshed out by transcribing the missing material from the recorded versions on Body and Soul and Quiet Now. At times, improvised solos or sections were included in the notated arrangements. When there was a discrepancy between the original conception of an arranged section and the recording, Gene made the decision on which to include. Where possible, notes left out of a chord voicing or a counterpoint line on the recorded version were included and marked with parenthesis."

This is a fun collection of standards interpreted by Gene, the genius in this style of playing. But besides the mere enjoyment of the music, for players of guitar his improvisational ideas are fascinating and the fluency of his technique is to die for. For me, he is just about the best example of how jazz is to be played on the classical guitar and this CD is a welcome addition to my collection.

This book is for intermediate and advanced players who want to add more jazz flavor and chromaticism to their playing. By presenting well known tunes transformed by Bertoncini's masterful and very personal approach, this book has the potential to expand guitarists' harmonic knowledge and give them more options for solo and ensemble arranging and performing. It is quite challenging, so I'm approaching it patiently, by studying the written music while listening, reviewing lead sheets of these tunes in my fakebooks, and working through Bertoncini's arrangements with the guitar.

Bertoncini is a Harmonic genius. This book allows some insight into his thoughts on harmony, voicing and applying these to the guitar. This is not a beginners method. You'll need familiarity with the guitar fretboard and decent reading skills, despite the inclusion of tablature. A bit of dedicated

practice will provide rewards.

He's got some very hip chords here and he's really into contrary motion chromatic bass lines against the melody. Sometimes it's a little too far out. I'm not crazy about the choice of standards either, except for Stardust.

These are for the advanced guitarist who sees a need for learning different styles of Jazz Guitar playing. If you are a classical for finger style guitarist, then you would probably want to explore these tunes. Gene Bertoncini is a great Jazz Guitarist!

An excellent collection of advanced arrangements by a master. Not for the faint at heart. Highly recommended for intermediate players that want to take their repertoire to the next level.

This is a good book but definitely more classical in style than jazz.

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