

Mp3 Glenn Hardy - Blue Shades



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Contemporary hybrid piano: an eclectic mix of blues, rock, classical, and jazz 14 MP3 Songs

BLUES: Piano Blues, **BLUES:** Texas Style Details: Welcome to my third solo piano album, a portfolio of mostly original music consisting of paired selections. The first of each pair is composed or improvised in a blues or song form, while the second is an improvisation derived from or related to the first in some way. I began playing blues when I was about twelve years old. My father, who was from Texas and loved blues and country music, had been asking me if I could learn to play some Ray Charles or boogie-woogie. In my brother's record collection, I discovered old 78 rpm records of boogie-woogie pianists Albert Ammons and Pete Johnson. They were invaluable teachers. Even when I'm not playing blues, shades of it tend to color much of what I do play. Improvisation is the lifeblood of music. When I was a baby, my brother, Bruce, used to make up songs for me at the piano. As soon as I started piano lessons, however, I got the message that improvisation would not be a part of my music education, at least, if I intended to pursue a "serious" career in classical music. Only later, when I discovered jazz, was improvisation addressed, but even then, only within the framework of the jazz format. Through listening to music recorded by musicians who had, in some way, stepped outside of the mainstream, I was encouraged to explore and develop my own approach to improvisation. In this effort, Keith Jarrett, Cecil Taylor, Marilyn Crispell, and Matthew Shipp have been invaluable teachers. Glenn Hardy Pawcatuck, CT USA January 2006

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