

direction. The rhythm section [Cogbill, Young, Chrisman, and Emmons and Bobby Wood on keyboards] recorded live to a scratch vocal by Dusty, who—being somewhat out of her element—was reportedly as nervous as a cat in a room full of rocking chairs. The band came up with their own parts, including Tommy, who consequently drove the whole track in typical fashion.” Rhodes continues, “Gear-wise, Tommy used Chip Moman’s 1959 P-Bass, which had a rosewood neck and flatwound strings. It was the American Studios bass; Mike Leech has it now [see photo, page 82]. Mike said Tommy also kept a jar of Vaseline on hand, and he would stick his right fingers into it to help facilitate his technique. Reggie remembers there being a bass amp at the session, and with Dowd present there was probably a direct as well as a miked amp signal. Interestingly, Leech recalled that on the earlier American Studios Leech, Tommy’s bass was recorded through an old Fender Twin Reverb that had one of its two 12” speakers busted and disconnected. They would place a mic, probably a Shure SM57, off axis of the single speaker and keep the amp at a low volume.”

The two-and-half-minute “Preacher Man” begins with intro interplay between Young’s guitar lick on the downbeat and Cogbill’s instantly funky response in the back half of the bars. For the first verse, at letter A, Cogbill remains busy but never gets in Springfield’s way. Rhodes offers, “What strikes me is how sparse and laid back the track is, except for Tommy. He takes up the bulk of real estate and gives the piece a sense of urgency and excitement. You can hear Gene Chrisman and everyone sort of following Tommy because he’s in the zone, right in the middle of the pocket, with an occasional lean.” As the track moves to the first chorus, at B, Cogbill continues his syncopated ways. At times he adds the dominant 7

(D) to the E triad chord change, as well as expressive hammer-ons and slurs. In bars 16 and 17 he breaks down to half-notes, in sync with the vocals, providing the perfect release to the previous rhythmic tension. Notes Rhodes, “The fact that Tommy is playing around the E up at the 7th fret tells me these guys had heard themselves on the radio and knew what translated. If he had played open E it might not have reproduced as well in a car or on a transistor radio. And given that Tommy also played wicked bebop-style guitar, navigating on the upper fingerboard was no sweat.”

Following a re-intro at bars 18 and 19 (in which horns enter and cop Young’s guitar lick), Cogbill continues his percolating part—with subtle variations—through the second verse and chorus (letters C and D). At E, the bridge begins, in what is a clever setup for a modulation a 4th away, to the key of A. Cogbill keeps driving forward, and in bar 33 he issues an ear-catching 5th on the downbeat, followed by a jazzy passing tone. Letter F’s third chorus establishes the new key of A, with Cogbill maintaining motion and adding a cool subtlety: Every time he arrives at the IV chord (D), he outlines a D triad (D-F#-A). His inspired, bluesy fill in bar 41 is a precursor to the out chorus at G. Rhodes assesses, “Tommy felt the final chorus needed to go into another gear, and he knew he had to get right to it before the quick fade. Moving up to a more vocal, conversational register, he plays a linear fill across the bar line from 47 to 48 without worrying about nailing the roots. This happens even more dramatically in bars 51 to 52—you can feel the joy. I would have loved to hear the next eight bars!” Rhodes sums up, “Tommy’s playing was always headed toward something—the next chord change or the next section. In retrospect, his playing was heading toward the future of electric bass.” **BP**

In addition to appearing on recent CDs by Trisha Yearwood, Brooks & Dunn, Gretchen Wilson, Rodney Crowell, Randall Bramblett, and the Vinyl Kings, Nashville session ace Michael Rhodes can be heard on Larry Carlton’s latest, *Firewire* [Arista], and Vince Gill’s upcoming CD and tour.

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD:

“SON OF A PREACHER MAN”

TRANSCRIPTION BY CHRIS JISI & MICHAEL RHODES

The musical notation shows a bass line for the song "Son of a Preacher Man". It is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 92. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The notation includes a bass clef, a treble clef for the guitar part, and a bass line with various techniques like slurs and hammer-ons. Chord diagrams are provided for E, A, E, B7, and H. The notation is split into two systems, with the first system covering bars 1-5 and the second system covering bars 6-10.

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TRANSCRIPTION

10

B E A E

7 7 4 6 4 4 6 4 4 4 (4) 6 4 6 4 7 4 7 7 9 9 7 7 9 7 7 9 9 9 (7) 9 7 7 9

14

A E B7 A E

7 7 9 9 7 9 7 9 7 9 9 9 9 9 7 9 7 9 7 9 9 9 7 7 9

19

C E A E

7 9 9 7 9 7 7 9 7 7 9 9 9 7 7 9 7 7 9 11 9 11 11 9 7 7 / 6 9 6

23

B7 D E

9 9 9 9 9 9 6 6 9 9 9 9 6 9 6 7 7 7 7 7 7 9 7 7 7 7 / 6 9

27

A E A E B7 A E

7 9 7 9 7 7 9 7 7 9 9 7 9 (9) 7 9 9 (7) 7 9 7 9 9 7

32

D7 A B7

5 7 7 5 5 5 6 5 5 5 5 5 / 4 2 4 5 5 / 4 2 4 7 7 4 4 4 4

37

E7 F A

2 2 4 4 4 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 4 2 2 2 4 2 4 5 / 4 7

41

D A D A E7 D

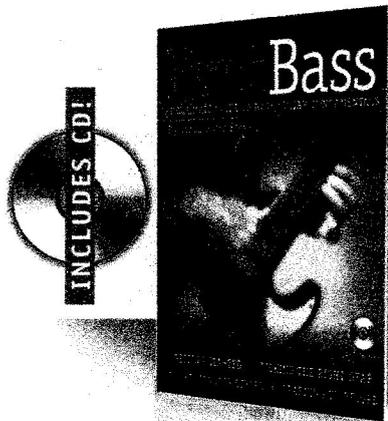
46

G A D A D A

50

D A D A

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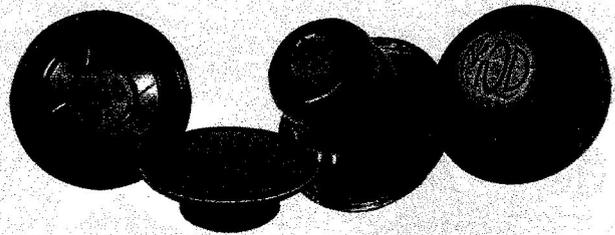
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