

THE WES SIDE OF HEAVEN

BY RICH SEVERSON

Hi Everyone. This is my first contribution to JJG. Last issue Jim Carlton reviewed my latest CD and I want to thank him for the nice comments. I also want to thank Ed Benson for asking me to share the title track with the JJG readers and for his dedication to this great magazine. "The Wes Side Of Heaven" is an original tune written, as you might guess, as a tribute to Wes Montgomery. The tune uses some "Wes Isms" and is really a kick to solo over. I think Wes would have liked it and would have had a blast soloing over it too. I've written out the tune and transcribed the first chorus for you. As with any transcription you'll have greater success learning it if you can also hear it. To hear an MP3 of the tune go to my website www.Guitarcollege.com. We'll discuss the tune and solo at the end of this article.

♩ = 132

Cmi7 *Ami7b5* *Dmi7b5* *G+7*

Cmi7 *Ami7b5* *Dmi7b5* *Dbmi7b5* *Cmi7b5* *Bmi7b5*

Fmi7 *Dmi7b5* *G7#9*

THE WES SIDE OF HEAVEN

RICH SEVERSON

Chords: Cmi^7 Ami^b5 Dmi^7b5 E^bmi^7b5 E^bmi^7b5 Fmi^7b5 Cmi^7 Bmi^7 B^bmi^9

7 3 8

T	6	7	6	8	5	7	5	7	6	7	7	9	8	7	8
A															
B															

Chords: A^bmi^9 B^bmi^9 E^b9 B^bmi^9 Bmi^9 B^bmi^7 Bmi^7 E^9 A^bmi^9

9 10

T	5	6	6	8	9	7	7	7	7	7
A	5	6	6	6	7	6	7	7	7	5
B	5	6	5	6	7	6	7	7	6	5

Chords: A^bmi^7 A^bmi^7 D^9 A^bmi^9 A^bmi^9 Gmi^7 A^bmi^7 D^b9

11 12

T	4	5	5	7	6	4	4	4		
A	4	5	5	5	4	3	4	4		
B	4	5	4	5	4	3	4	3	4	5

Chords: Cmi^7 A^bmi^7b5 A^b13 $G+7$

13 14

T	6	7	6	8	5	7	8	7	8	5	4	5	8	5
A														
B														

THE WES SIDE OF HEAVEN

RICH SEVERSON



1. **Fmi7** **G+7#9** **CMi7** **G+7#9** SOLO BREAK

15 16 17

4-6-4 5 3 5-3-4-3 6 3 6 4 4 3 5 6 6 9

BLOWING CHANGES

CMi7 **Ami7b5** **Dmi7b5** **G+7** **CMi7**

18 19 20

8 8 8 7-10-8 8 8 8 8 9-11-9-8 10-8-10-8-7 9

Gmi7b5 **C7#9** **Fmi7** **Dmi7b5** **G+7**

21 22 23

9 8 11 9 8 10 10 10 8 8 11 8 10 7 10 10 8 9 9

CMi7 **F7** **Bbmi9** **Eb9**

24 25 26

8 7 10 11 9 8 7 10 9 10 9 10 8 7 6 8 6 8 9

THE WES SIDE OF HEAVEN

RICH SEVERSON

4

27 28 29

30 31 32 33

34 35 36

D.C. AL CODA AFTER SOLOS

Copyright © 2007 by GUITARCOLLEGE.COM

The tune is basically a cool groovin' C minor blues with a series of II Vs in the middle stretching it to a 16 bars. It's played it with a combination of single notes and chromatic chord melodies beginning in measure 4. Measure 9 begins our II V section with a lot of side stepping chord moves, alla Wes. Then in measure 13 we're back to the blues, and end with a blues lick. That's it in a nutshell. I have to confess I'm proud of this tune, it's simple and yet challenging. Now for the solo; I found when rehearsing that short phrases fit the tune better and made soloing easier. I'm fond of solos comprised of several complete phrases and not a lot rambling on & on. First, the solo break; there's always a natural tendency to orchestrate a hot lick to dazzle your listeners, but when it came down to playing one it didn't feel right and what came out surprised me. It's so simple, it's almost embarrassing! Quarter notes? Listening back I realized it sets up the groove, so don't feel like you need to prove something here, just groove with it. The first phase at measure 18 is around Cm to G7, not Cm to Am7b5. Often I like to solo over the chords that aren't being played at the time, like the previous chord or the V of the upcoming chord. The phrase at 20 is over G7 not Cm and measure 24 and 25 are over G7 to Cm not Cm to F7. I've learned that a phrase is stronger than a chord change. At 26 it really gets fun, here starts four II Vs in four different keys. Try playing a short phrase for each one, like I did in this solo chorus, or try transposing one phase to each II V. BTW, my favorite short phase is measure 27, playing right down a Bmin chord, how simple! Soloing over this tune was a pleasure because of Todd Johnson on bass and Gary Newmark on drums. They made the groove so comfortable, it was like riding in a Cadillac. Hope you enjoy this piece I welcome your comments and questions. Rich@GuitarCollege.com