

# Erroll Garner: The Essential LPs

Erroll Garner, the virtuoso pianist and composer, left an indelible mark on the jazz landscape with his distinctive style and prolific output. This article delves into his most influential albums, exploring their unique attributes and enduring significance.



## Erroll The Essential LPs by James M Doran

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.5 out of 5

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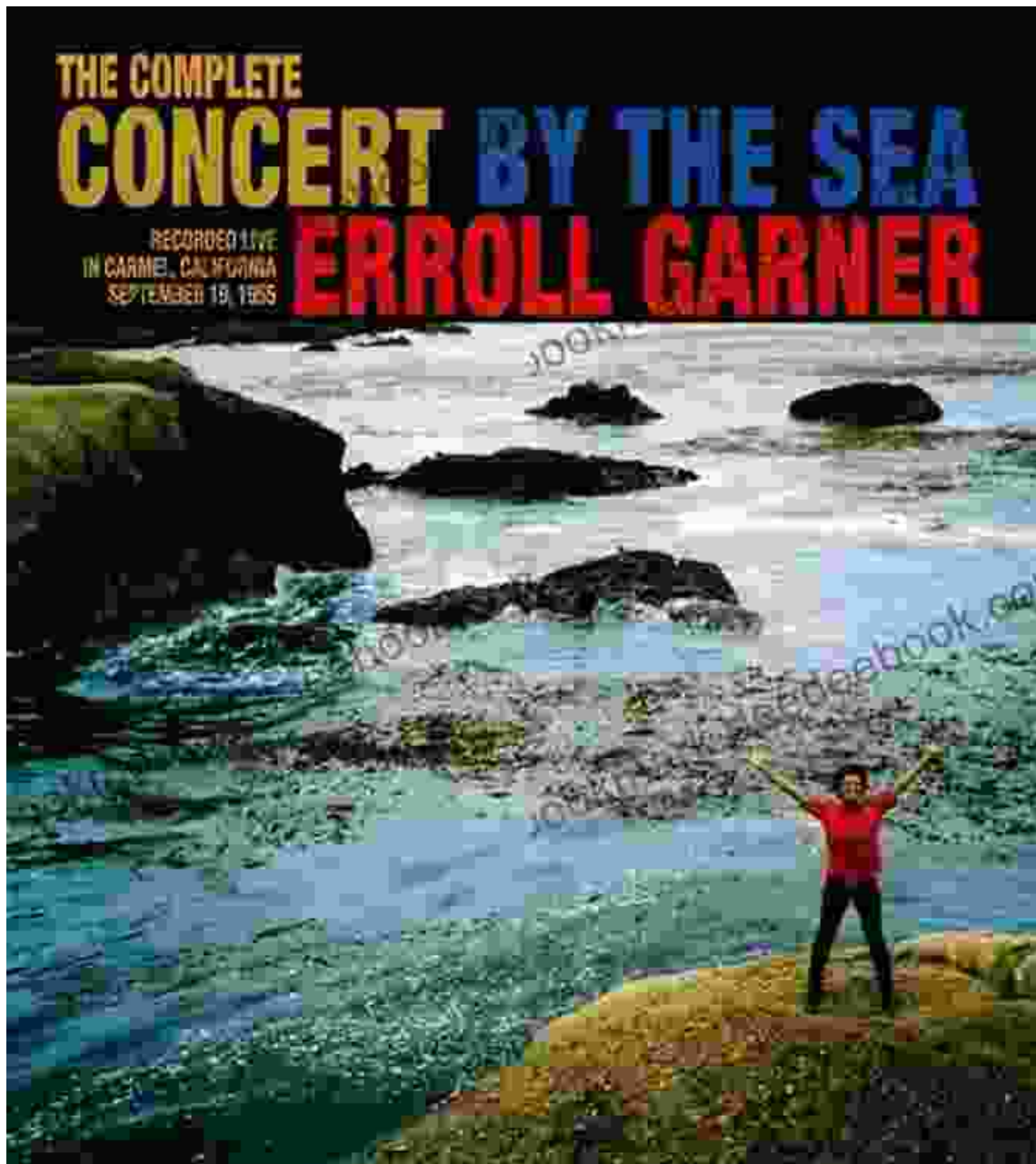
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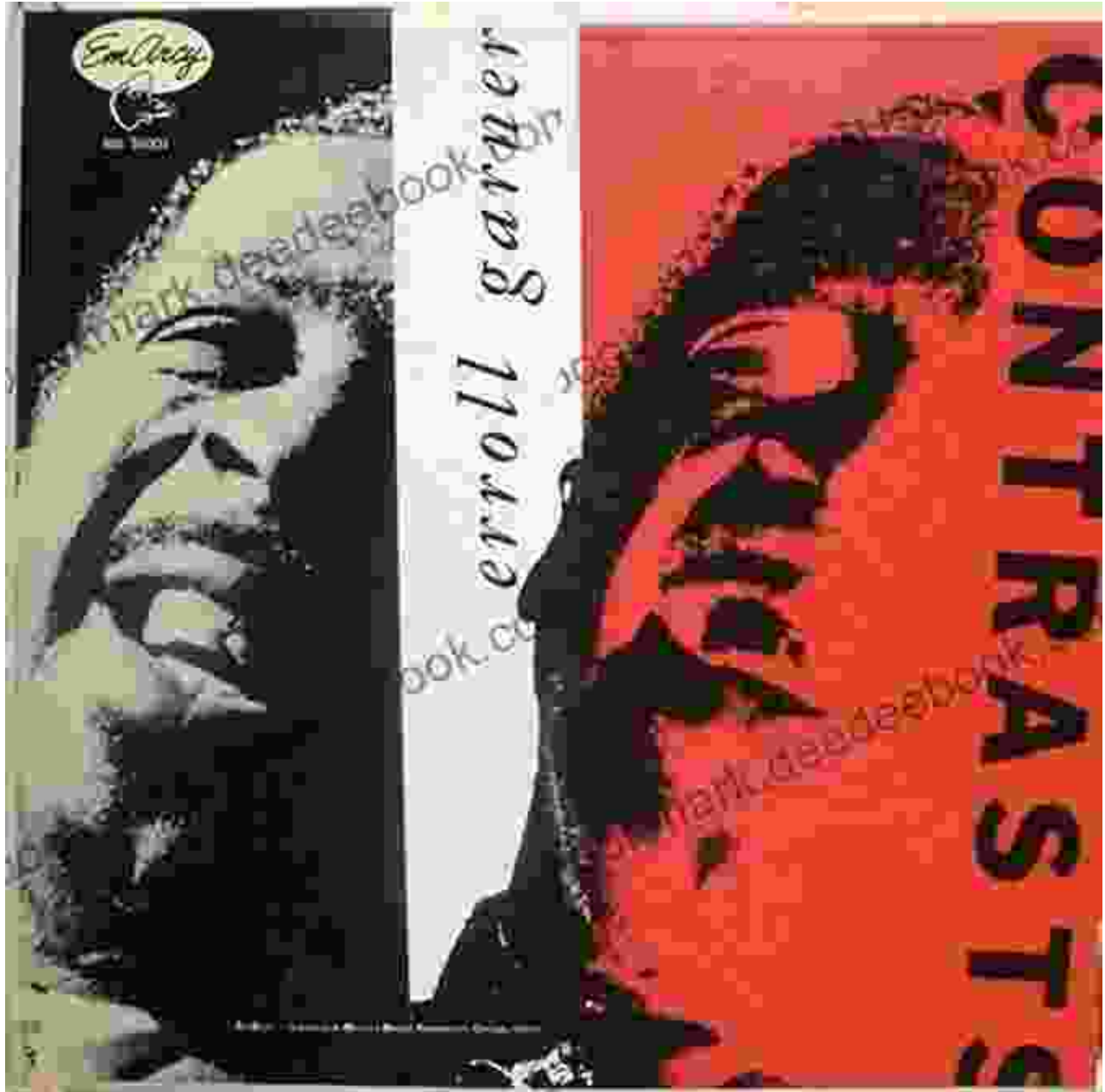
## Concert By the Sea (1955):

Recorded live at Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, this album captures Garner's spontaneous magic in an intimate setting. The eclectic repertoire includes his signature "Misty," alongside captivating interpretations of classics like "Body and Soul" and "I'll Remember April." Garner's improvisational brilliance and infectious rhythms shine throughout.



### **Contrasts (1957):**

This studio album showcases Garner's versatility and depth. It opens with a dazzling rendition of Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C-sharp minor," seamlessly transitioning to jazz classics like "All the Things You Are" and "But Not for Me." Garner blends classical and jazz influences effortlessly, demonstrating his wide-ranging musicality.



**Discovery! (1954):**

Garner's debut album for EmArcy Records introduced his signature sound to a wider audience. The album features his iconic "Mambo Erroll," a playful and infectious exploration of Latin rhythms, as well as thoughtful interpretations of standards like "Sophisticated Lady" and "Willow Weep for Me."



### **Gone with the Wind (1956):**

This album celebrates Garner's love for the iconic film score. His reimagined versions of "Tara's Theme" and "Main Title" capture the epic sweep of the film while adding his own unique jazz inflections. Garner also includes beloved standards like "Blue Skies" and "When the Saints Go Marching In," showcasing his versatility.

# ERROLL GARNER

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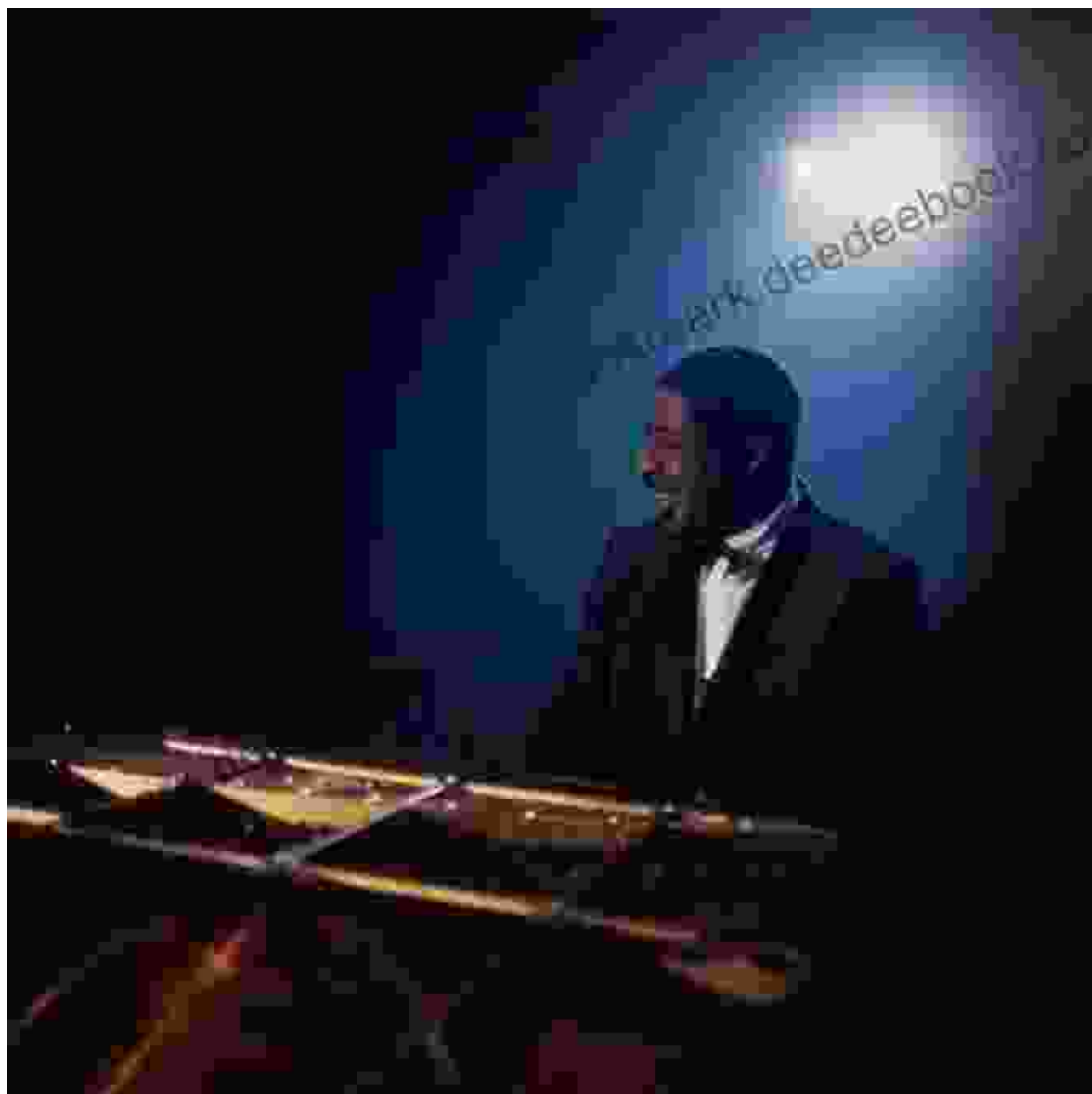
## **At the Concertgebouw (1964):**

Recorded live in Amsterdam, this album captures Garner's prowess in a concert setting. The energetic performance includes his signature "Misty" and a captivating rendition of "Body and Soul," showcasing his ability to command an audience with his infectious rhythms and improvisational genius.



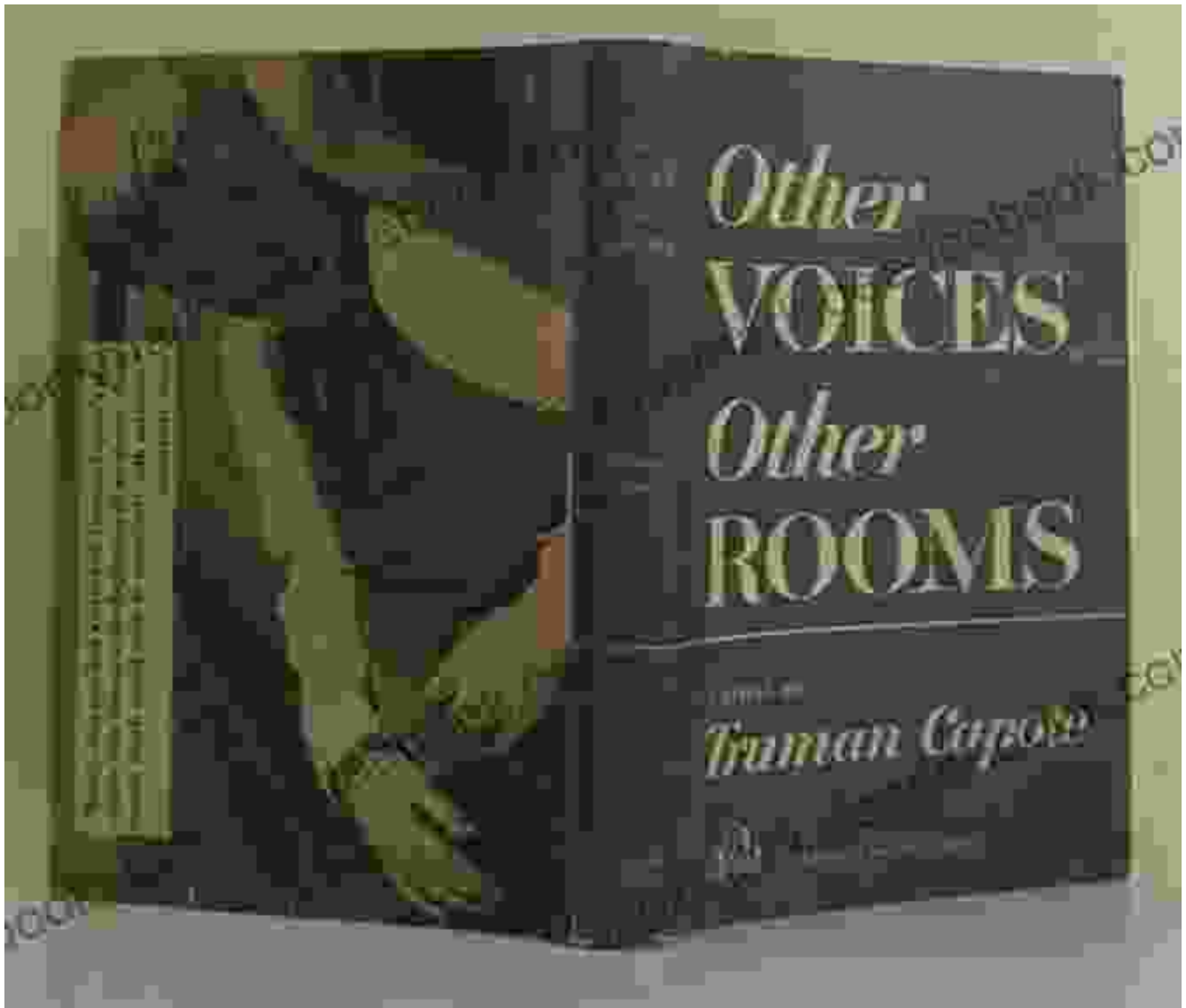
### **A Night at the Village Vanguard (1957):**

This live album, recorded at the legendary New York City jazz club, is considered one of Garner's finest performances. The intimate setting allows Garner to showcase his carefree and spontaneous style, with extended improvisations that weave through standards like "Stella by Starlight" and "I'll Be Seeing You."



### **Other Voices Other Rooms (1961):**

Garner's final album for Columbia Records is a departure from his usual style. It features original compositions and arrangements that explore different musical genres, including Latin, waltz, and ballads. The album showcases Garner's range as a musician and composer, while still maintaining his signature touch.



### **Impact and Legacy:**

Erroll Garner's essential LPs have had a profound impact on jazz music. His distinctive playing style, characterized by intricate left-hand patterns and infectious rhythms, has influenced generations of pianists. His ability to blend classical and jazz influences seamlessly has also expanded the boundaries of jazz expression.



Garner's albums continue to inspire and delight listeners, showcasing the extraordinary talent and innovation that made him one of the greatest jazz pianists of all time. Through these recordings, his music continues to resonate and remind us of the enduring power of jazz.



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