



# Soundings

— Bart Grooms

## New Jazz

Pianist Kirk Lightsey just turned 60 but isn't nearly as well known as he should be more than four decades into his career.

*Goodbye Mr. Evans* (Evidence), our Album of the Month, shows how commanding a presence the man is: his clarity of phrase and knack for putting that note or chord right where it *belongs* shine through, whether on Jimmy Heath's delicious, riff-driven "A New Blue," Lightsey's own sinewy "Habiba" (an earlier version is often excerpted on NPR news), a lyrical adaptation of a Chopin piece, or Phil Woods' moving title ballad; Bill Evans would have been honored. Tibor Elekes plays rock-solid bass lines, and drummer Don Moye (Lightsey's colleague in the Leaders) is a revelation: rarely heard in this mainstream context, his polyrhythms are the perfect foil for Lightsey's crystalline lines.