

Kirk Lightsey Trio

"Goodbye Mr. Evans," Evidence Music.
Reviewed by staff writer Jay Harvey.

★★★ One of a distinguished company of Detroit-bred jazz pianists, Kirk Lightsey now makes Europe his home base. This trio outing was recorded in Bern, Switzerland, in 1994, with faithful reproduction of the leader's background vocalizing as well as the three instruments.

Unflashy, swinging, rhythmically solid, melodically inclined yet tinged with the avant-garde, Lightsey leads a session largely made up of pieces by such modern masters as Jimmy Heath, Dave Brubeck, Wayne Shorter, Thelonious Monk and Phil Woods. A medley opening with Eddie Harris and closing with John Coltrane is remarkably cohesive.

Bassist Tibor Elekes provides a firm, plump line, engagingly free of clichés. Famoudou Don Moye is a drummer with a firmer grip on tradition than his Art Ensemble of Chicago past might lead one to expect, especially on *In Your Own Sweet Way*. Elekes' *From Chopin to Chopin* is a surprising success.

Star ratings: ★★★★★ excellent;
★★★★ good; ★★★ fair; ★ poor