

the late D.C. band Eggs. Yet there are definite threads reaching back to the heights of the Beach Boys and long-gone AM radio transmissions, with horns and pianos often sharing center stage with guitars and drums. But there's rarely an overwhelming wall of noise; simple arrangements let each song twist and flow along its own currents. And singer/guitarist Gary Olson has a thoughtful, subtle delivery throughout, most particularly on "Rushes of Pure Spring" and "The Swedish Libra And You." An inviting album. (*Merge, Box 1235, Chapel Hill, NC 27514*) — Lisa Gidley

**KIRK LIGHTSEY TRIO • Goodbye
Mr. Evans**

Though jazz may be filled with youthful prodigies who gather the most attention, there's little substitute for experience. Take pianist Lightsey, who just celebrated his 60th birthday and has logged time with a diverse batch of musicians that include Sonny Stitt, Chet Baker, Dexter Gordon and David Murray. For this album (recorded in 1994), he's enlisted the help of Art Ensemble drummer Famoudou Don Moye and bassist Tibor Elekes. Lightsey is generous with playing space, so much that the mix and solos at times give the impression that the session was lead by the bassist. But that's just Lightsey's confidence, which he also reveals in a modest lack of flash or trend-

jumping. The trio meshes thoroughly as they tackle several not-quite-familiar tunes from Monk, Brubeck, Phil Woods and that swing-cat Chopin. This musical focus is particularly apparent when they play slowly, such as the Chopin piece. It's stately without being pompous, which puts the melody and Lightsey's variations into best light. With faster pieces, the trio shows the same virtues from a different angle, working off each other in an intricate conversation. Despite so many death-of-jazz prophecies, albums like *Goodbye Mr. Evans* show that even a seemingly restricted form like the piano trio is still capable of surprise, charm and sharp wit. (*Evidence, 1100 E. Hector St. #392, Conshohocken, PA 19428*) — Lang Thompson

LONG HIND LEGS

Long Hind Legs is actually a duo of multi-instrumentalists and vocalists who multi-track their wildest fantasies onto tape. And what fantasies! One piece, "Alphabets of Unreason," which deals with the subconscious urge to kill, features a menacing dance mix that makes the song all that much more horrific. "Numb" seems to present a picture of insincere love based upon dysfunction and co-dependence. There are also guitar-driven anthems such as "Open Wide," but most peculiar are the three keyboard-driven pieces, such as the