

KIRK LIGHTSEY

Goodbye Mr. Evans

Evidence ★★★★★

The city of Detroit has produced some fine piano players, among them Hank Jones, Roland Hanna, Barry Harris and Tommy Flanagan.

Kirk Lightsey, a Motor City musician who currently lives in France, doesn't have the name recognition of the above players, which is a shame. His touch at the keyboard is firm yet sensitive. Not one to razzle-dazzle the listener, he favors chords that fill the ear's canvas with color, and his solos tell their stories without sidetracking into chatty asides.

Goodbye Mr. Evans is a trio date for Lightsey and bassist Tibor Elekes and drummer Famoudou Don Moye. Don't be misled by the title, for this is no attempt to clone the pianistic stylings of Bill Evans (the title comes from Phil Woods' composition, which closes out this set).

Lightsey easily moves from the lyrical (*From Chopin to Chopin*) to the edgy (a four-tune medley which includes John Coltrane's *Giant Steps*), working out musically with a minimum of musical fat. And while he resists the rapid-note style of playing, he can't resist flashing a little Oscar Peterson-ish flurry in the title track.

M. A.