

# DOWNBEAT

Jazz, Blues & Beyond Since 1934

OCTOBER 2015



**Wayne Horvitz**  
*Some Places Are Forever Afternoon*  
(11 Places For Richard Hugo)

SONGLINES 1612

★★★★½

Twelve compositions linked with 11 poems, this new all-instrumental project from keyboardist Wayne Horvitz once again defies pigeonholing. *Some Places Are Forever Afternoon* was written in honor of Northwest poet Richard Hugo, who died in 1982. In an oblique kind of way, Seattle transplant Horvitz and his bands *Sweeter Than The Day* and the *Gravitas Quartet* manage to bring the late poet back to life.

Given their shared landscapes, both musician and poet seem to explore the same subject matter: bars and restaurants, churches and the people who inhabit them, the landscapes and countryside. Horvitz has visited some of the people and places that were part of Hugo's life, and because we're talking about rural America, the challenge for Horvitz is to combine the spirit of improvisation with the mannered compositional styles of folk and American classical music.

The album provides a balance of order and feeling, performed in the spirit of a chamber music group. Horvitz's compositions combine simple, quirky melodies with traces of improvisation here and there, and moods that range from quiet and solemn to quirky and bluesy.

The album's success is due in large part to the crew Horvitz has assembled to record it. Cornetist Ron Miles is a key voice, as are bassoonist Sara Schoenbeck and cellist Peggy Lee. Heard more as complements than featured voices are bassist Keith Lowe, guitarist Tim Young and drummer Eric Eagle.

For an album mostly bereft of dramatic peaks and valleys, Horvitz manages to keep you listening—and guessing. A loose, bluesy feel animates "In Some Other Hume," and "The Car That Brought You Here Still Runs," the album's centerpiece, is classic Horvitz storytelling, complete with pauses and interludes, unison lines and haunting melodies.

—John Ephland

**Some Places Are Forever Afternoon (11 Places For Richard Hugo):** Money Or A Story; Those Who Remain Are The Worst; You Drink Until You Are Mayor; Nothing Grew As Slowly As A Stone; All Weather Is Yours (No Matter How Vague?); The Beautiful Wives For Jim And Linn; Wicked In Some Other Home; The Car That Brought You Here Still Runs; Last Place There; You Must Have Saved Hours; Some Places Are Forever Afternoon. (Silt+D)