

DOWNTOWN

Music GALLERY

July 17, 2015 Newsletter

WAYNE HORVITZ With RON MILES/TIM YOUNG/PEGGY LEE/SARA SCHOENBECK/KEITH LOWE/ERIC EAGLE

Some Places are Forever Afternoon [11 Places for Richard Hugo] (Songlines 1612; Canada) Featuring Wayne Horvitz on piano, Hammond organ, electronics & compositions, Ron Miles on cornet, Sara Schoenbeck on bassoon, Peggy Lee on cello, Tim Young on guitar, Keith Lowe on bass and Eric Eagle on drums.

Mr. Horvitz composed these eleven pieces inspired by the poems of Richard Hugo. He organized a fine seven-piece ensemble with musicians he has worked with in the past, time and again. The personnel includes two members of Wayne's old band Zony Mash, Mr. Young and Mr. Lowe, as well as the drummer from the Acoustic Zony Mash. The poems and pictures of some of the places that inspired them are included in the 26-page booklet. As I read through the poems, I realize how wonderful they are. Like short stories or scenes from movie or novel, they capture a certain tangible spirit. The music also has that enchanting, rural Americana vibe that sounds so familiar. I hear a waltz of sorts on "Those Who Remain are the Worst", a lilting melody, with dreamy guitar and cornet gently interwoven. The music often has that wide-open spaces sound, something we rarely get a chance to experience in tangled web of distractions in NYC. I love the carnivalesque atmosphere on "All Weather is Yours No Matter How Vulgar?", are we in New Orleans or somewhere similar? It sounds as if Mr. Horvitz is writing for a small orchestra, the way he uses each instrument, things seem larger of more full due to the sly, though full arrangements. "For Jim and Lois Welch" recalls the best of that folky yet cerebral sound that Bill Frisell often evokes on his better discs. There is an earthy, human quality to this offering that I find most endearing. Everything about this disc is most enchanting, like a welcome reunion with your family or friends, the ones you still love and get along with. - Bruce Lee Gallanter, DMG