Take Five Runs Hot and Cool: Lionel Loueke, Wayne Horvitz, Tord Gustavsen and More

By NATE CHINEN September 24, 2018

Wayne Horvitz, “Northampton”

Speaking of a lilting, bittersweet glow, pianist Wayne Horvitz has a new album, *The Snowghost Sessions,* due Oct. 5 on Songlines. Named after the site of its creation, an audiophile studio in Montana, the album contains about a dozen new compositions, a couple of them played twice. They cohere by way of a mood: interior, reflective and proudly self-contained. Consider “Northampton,” which Horvitz originally performed in that northeastern burg, for solo piano and electronics.

The track begins with the simplest of drum beats, courtesy of Eric Eagle. When the piano melody arrives, cushioned by a low hum of Hammond B-3 organ, the moment registers as a wry soundtrack to whatever quotidian act you may be engaging with: fixing a sandwich, or checking your email. Horvitz’s trio, which also has Geoff Harper on bass, isn’t interested in showing its cards all at once (though a few other tracks do ratchet up the temperature). There’s a laconic integrity in this music, a conviction that sometimes less can actually just be less, to the betterment of all.