

See Through Trio

Lines and Spaces

By Glen Hall

The musical dimensions first opened up by the Jimmy Guiffre 3 in the early '60s have more or less languished until now. The See Through Trio, with their similar instrumentation, take up the challenge, ranging over tunes like the ragtime-ish "Waiting For The Punch Line" with interlocking piano and soprano sax lines that knit beautifully with the plucked bass commentary and chamber ensemble clarity and precision. A stated trio goal is to play music outlined in the seminal compositions of Carla Bley, and pianist Tanya Gill does this with rhythmically-free knots of notes that float over then drop into a groove while remaining harmonically ambiguous — a thinking player's playing. Unlike the JG3, this group don't rip it up. Instead, saxist Mark Laver employs a smallish, clarinet-like tone and bassist Pete Johnston keeps things small sound-wise as well, with pizzicato figures and few sustained tones. The liveliest piece is "A Little More To The Left," with its cascading unison line and energetic improv. *Lines and Spaces* is pensive music that unfolds like a lotus on a quiet pond. (Woods and Waters)
