

New Issues

MITCH TOWNE, REFUGE.

CROSS TOWNE RECORDS1001.

WOLVERINE / REFUGE / BETTER NOW THAN NEVER AT ALL / ODE TO KENNY / STEEPAN FAITH / SOME WORK OF NOBLE NOTE, MAY YET BE DONE / ACT AS IF. 44:00.

Towne, org; Tetsuya Nishiyama, g; Jeffery Johnson, d. 11/2024. Omaha, NE,

Organist Towne assembled his touring comrade for this introductory album of all self-penned numbers (except for track five from Kenny Kirkland eponymous Verve release). Don't have much background bio information on him but he's supposedly an experienced side- person having worked with numerous names. Like most major console kickers he provides his own bass line while serviceable are not going to make one forget Richard "Groove" Holmes. He has a penchant for short, choppy Basie-like notation with an overall sound somewhere between Mel Rhyne and less-boppish Don Paterson. There are some instances where he and the guitar interweave unison strands. This is most apparent on the slightly funkified "Ode To Kenny" when they double their lines and swap licks. The six-stringers style is in the classic jazz guitar mold of players like Ray Crawford or Yves Brouqui. The next to last track gets its title from a Tennyson quote, is set in Five and probably owes more to Procol Harum than to Larry Young. Trapster Johnson stretches out on it. It will be interesting where this threesome goes from here otherwise a serviceable debut .

Larry Hollis