

CD REVIEWS

Only album's title gives off chill

THE OCTOBER TRIO

Looks Like It's Going to Snow

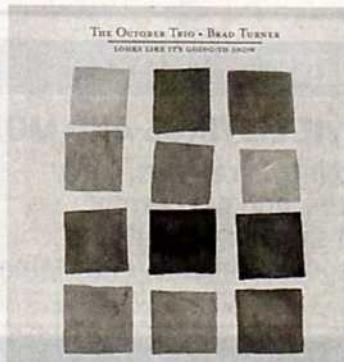
Songlines

★★★★☆

Members of the Vancouver-based trio The October Trio appear prescient in choosing the title of their second studio CD, given this winter's Arctic blast across the country.

There is nothing cold about the music, however. The trio, consisting of tenor saxophonist Evan Arntzen, bassist (and main composer) Josh Cole and drummer Dan Gaucher (who recently moved to Toronto), is joined by trumpeter Brad Turner, which broadens the band's scope and approach. This is apparent in the opening track, *You're Trying Too Hard*, on which Arntzen and Turner engage in a musical conversation, trumpet and sax conversing with one another, often-times overlapping and interjecting. This occurs repeatedly; on *Found*, with its odd time accents, on *Give* (Sydney Carton), where sax and flugelhorn perform descending lines together, and on the title song.

While you detect influences of others (such as *The Bad Plus* on



the rock-driven *Springs*), this group has a uniqueness that improvisers seek any time they pick up their instrument. Cole and Gaucher keep things fluid, and for each number the ideas of the four musicians bubble to the surface.

The October Trio plays a CD release concert tonight at 7:30 p.m., at the Western Front.

Marke Andrews

AMANDA TOSOFF

Wait and See

Cellar Live

★★★★☆

The second release by young

Vancouver jazz pianist Amanda Tosoff solidifies her reputation as a gifted musician with refined compositional skills.

Nine of the 10 tracks are her works, and they make the most of the jazz-combo setting. Julia's Blues sounds like something Thelonious Monk would have written, and Tosoff's solo has a real Monk-like quality: a line, a pause, a rhythmic strafing, a break for air, another line. That robustness is offset by the next track, *New*, on which the writing leaves plenty of room to explore.

On the lovely title track, which features good brush work by drummer Morgan Childs, soprano saxophonist Evan Arntzen (who appears to be inspired by Wayne Shorter) handles much of the melody, with an intricate single-note voicing played in unison with the leader's piano. If you like swing, check out *Stove Top*, where Sean Cronin lays down a deeply grooved bass line, Brad Turner notches things higher with his trumpet solo as Tosoff drops chord bombs, and the band builds toward a rollicking ending.

Marke Andrews