

IN ABSENTIA

WAYNE HORVITZ WITH

RON MILES · NELS CLINE · PEGGY LEE · KENNY WOLLESON · DYLAN VAN DER SCHYFF
SHERIDAN RILEY · BOBBY PREVITE · TIMOTHY YOUNG · MIKE GEBHART · JEFF PARKER



Like everyone else, I found myself with a little extra time on my hands in the spring of 2020. And I wasn't unique in finding the times strange, scary, restful, frustrating and a little inspiring. I am lucky to live in a place where I can take long walks when needed, and I have a lovely workspace that I spend too little time in.

In concerts I often use some processing on the piano, especially in improvised settings. I confess to almost never setting any of this up at home, or recording much at home, although I have a wonderful piano and a reasonable home recording situation. So, it was unusual to have my gear set up for any length of time, and the forced isolation was conducive to some experimentation, and some recording.

In all that, I started recording 3-minute improvisations, as a little structure to see what happened. It didn't take long for me to wonder, "3 minutes, why not 3 people?"

What's remarkable about the recordings that ensued was not that they were created during the pandemic, or that the tracks were entirely improvised – or that they were recorded in separate places, and at separate times. What is remarkable is this set of human beings.

I believe I had Peggy Lee do the first one and then sent it to Bobby Previte. I always had the first say, and in contradistinction to one of my many personality faults, never the last. In some cases "player 2" recorded and then went to "player 3". In others, players "2" and "3" each recorded to the piano track they received, without hearing the other's contribution. – Either way seemed to work.

I also had the opportunity to put some folks together I truly adore and admire, something I would have had a tough time doing under normal circumstances. Nels Cline is generally very busy indeed, so it was a kick to have him record on the same track as Mike Gebhart, a drummer I was just starting to hang with when the world took a little shift. Equally so getting the fabulous Sheridan Riley, a wonderful drummer here in Seattle, and best known for their work with the band Alvveys, on the same track as Jeff Parker. In fact, I have known Jeff for a while, but I don't think we have ever had a chance to work together. In addition, I took the opportunity to collaborate with my son, Lowell Horvitz. Lowell created five interstitial re-mixes, all 30 seconds in length.

These recordings were the last thing I ever did with Ron Miles, a musician of such depth and beauty that it is unbearable to imagine never sharing a stage or a studio with him again. I sent Ron the track with Kenny Wollesen and myself, and he did two separate takes, one with a mute and one without. Not using both takes never crossed my mind, both tracks are simply gorgeous, and this project is dedicated not only to Ron's memory, but to the profound mark he left on anyone who had the privilege of being in his company.

Wayne Horvitz
Seattle WA 2023

TRACKS

Turning Away

In Absentia 1.5

For the Love of God!

In Absentia 2.5

Been Here Before

In Absentia 3.5

Room with a View

In Absentia 4.5

Times Like These

In Absentia 5.5

In Absentia

Horvitz Miles Wollesen

Lowell Horvitz

Horvitz Young Van der Schyff

Lowell Horvitz

Horvitz Lee Previte

Lowell Horvitz

Horvitz Gebhart Cline

Lowell Horvitz

Horvitz Riley Parker

Lowell Horvitz

Horvitz Miles Wollesen

Recorded April-June 2020

Mixed and mastered by Wayne Horvitz

Re-mixes by Lowell Horvitz

CREDITS

Bobby Previte	Drums
Dylan van der Schyff	Radios and found objects
Jeff Parker	Guitar
Kenny Wollesen	Drums
Mike Gebhart	Drums
Nels Cline	Guitar
Sheridan Riley	Drums
Peggy Lee	Cello
Ron Miles	Cornet
Timothy Young	Guitar
Wayne Horvitz	Amplified Piano

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