

JASON KAO HWANG / BURNING BRIDGE (JAY-sun cow hwong)
“BLOOD”Label: **True Sound Recordings**Catalog Number: **TS 01**UPC Code: **7 98576 43672 8**Street Date: **11/1/18**All compositions by **Jason Kao Hwang**

1. **Breath Within the Bomb (12:32)**
2. **Surge, Part 1 (7:12)**
3. **Surge, Part 2 (7:17)**
4. **Evolution (11:12)**
5. **Declarations (9:39)**

Jason Kao Hwang – violin**Taylor Ho Bynum** – cornet/flugelhorn**Joseph Daley** – tuba**Andrew Drury** – drum set**Ken Filiano** – string bass**Sun Li** – pipa**Steve Swell** – trombone**Wang Guowei** – erhu[Available:](#)**Bandcamp, CDBaby**jasonkaohwang.com

Blood by Jason Kao Hwang and his Burning Bridge ensemble represents the latest masterwork to date in the oeuvre of one of the Lower East Side avant-garde's most original compositional voices: an uncompromising artistic vision as captivating as it is challenging. Hwang succeeds here at incorporating improvisational statements into unified compositional schemes with what strikes me as a cinematic, directorial style, an engaging conception of sonic cinéma vérité. His mastery of musical mise-en-scène allows him to place his outstanding cast of artists within well-structured soundscapes, across which he pans with lyrical lines and propulsive rhythms that his soloists continue seamlessly, as he zooms in to foreground their candid improvised responses to the challenging situations in which they find themselves. The compositional stage-sets he conceives showcase an activist aesthetic of polycultural hybridity, in which uniquely orchestrated sounds combine to evoke overtones of his own Asian American history and location. Building upon Burning Bridge's acclaimed debut recording (2012, Innova), he brings experimental jazz styles into mutually enriching dialogue with traditional Chinese music in order to confront, contemplate, and counteract the unspeakable violence whose disturbing, unrelenting echoes engendered this piece.

- Scott Currie (excerpt from liner notes)

Jason Kao Hwang's (composer/violin/viola) Burning Bridge, his octet of Chinese and Western instruments was one of the top CDs of 2012 in Jazziz and the Jazz Times. Burning Bridge has performed at the Edgefest, Vision Festival, Festival International de Musique Actuelle (Canada) and Freer Gallery (D.C.). Downbeat Magazine named his quintet recording Sing House, one of the Best CDs of 2017. The 2012 Downbeat Critics' Poll voted Mr. Hwang as "Rising Star for Violin." As composer, Mr. Hwang has received support from Chamber Music America, US Artists International, the NEA, Rockefeller Foundation and others. As violinist, he has worked with Karl Berger, Anthony Braxton, William Parker, Butch Morris, Oliver Lake, Reggie Workman, Pauline Oliveros, Tomeka Reid, Patrick Brennan, and many others.

In the complexity and richness of these compositions, the sense of how accomplished Hwang—and all these musicians—are as instrumentalists can easily be lost... Burning Bridge is both a transcendent and challenging experience, and with repeated listening the characteristics of each movement can shift in emphasis, and become reinvented.

All About Jazz, Karl Ackerman - February 25, 2013

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