

# new release

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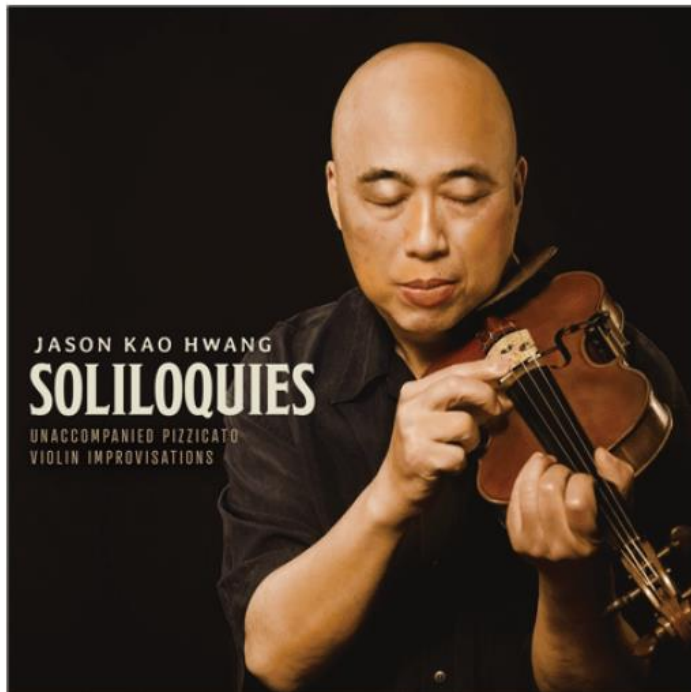


## JASON KAO HWANG

### “SOLILOQUIES, Unaccompanied Pizzicato Violin Improvisations”

Violinist Jason Kao Hwang releases a thoughtful album of solo violin pieces.

His pizzicato (rather than bowed) improvisations are introspective and quietly emotional.



Jason Kao Hwang - violin

**Artist:** JASON KAO HWANG

**Title:** SOLILOQUIES, Unaccompanied Pizzicato Violin Improvisations

**Artist Website:** <https://jasonkaohwang.com>

<https://jasonkaohwang.bandcamp.com/>

<https://jasonkaohwang.com/soliloquies>

**Release Date:** September 15, 2024

**Label:** True Sound Recordings

**Catalog Number:** TS05

**UPC Code:** 7 98576 30759 2

#### TRACK LISTING

1. **At the Beginning** (2:37)
2. **Hungry Shadows** (3:37)
3. **Vagabond** (2:00)
4. **Spinning Coins** (2:43)
5. **Remembering Our Conversation** (3:19)
6. **Where the River Runs Both Ways** (5:42)
7. **Dreams Dream** (2:55)
8. **Silhouettes Lean Forward** (3:17)
9. **Enclrclement** (5:41)
10. **Bending Branches Into Roots** (4:38)
11. **Shards** (6:13)
12. **Before God** (6:08)

Total Duration: 48:49

For Jason Kao Hwang, the music on *Soliloquies* is quite personal.

The adventurous violinist looks back on the lives of his parents who survived the difficulties and atrocities that they suffered and witnessed in China during World War II. Two decades after their passing, he wishes that he had more conversations with them about their experiences, and he has a great appreciation for their courage and perseverance. *Soliloquies* is dedicated to his parents and to Jason Kao Hwang's childhood memories.

This project's 12 improvisations are quite unusual for they feature Jason Kao Hwang as a solo violinist playing his violin pizzicato (plucked) rather than bowed. On such pieces as "Vagabond," "Where The River Runs Both Ways," "Dreams Dream," "Bending Branches Into Roots," and "Before God," the violinist looks back at his early days and to his parent's generation. The resulting music is thoughtful, introspective, melodic in its own way, spacious, and haunting.

Throughout his career, Jason Kao Hwang has never played the expected. He was born in Lake Forest, Illinois, grew up in Waukegan, and studied classical violin. While he earned a degree at NYU in film and television, during his college years he became very interested in jazz, soon becoming part of the jazz avant-garde.

Starting in the late 1970s, Jason Kao Hwang has worked and recorded with such notables as William Parker, Billy Bang, Bill Horvitz, Jerome Cooper, Butch Morris, David Murray, Reggie Workman, Henry Threadgill, Anthony Braxton, the Dominic Duval String Ensemble, Taylor Ho Bynum, Karl Berger, Steve Swell, Ivo Perelman, and most recently Joëlle Léandre. The violinist has also composed a chamber opera *The Floating Box: A Story In Chinatown* and led over a dozen of his own albums including 2010's *Symphony Of Souls*, and *Burning Bridge* which blends together Western and Chinese instruments.

The heartfelt *Soliloquies* is the latest milestone in Jason Kao Hwang's unique and singular career.

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