

## Jason Kao Hwang/SING HOUSE

### Biographies

**Jason Kao Hwang** (composer/violin/viola) has created works ranging from jazz, “new” and world music. Recently he released the CDs *Sing House* and *VOICE*. *Sing House* has performed at the University of Massachusetts, the Bohemian Caverns (D.C), the Vision Festival(NYC) and Edgefest (MI). *Burning Bridge*, his octet of Chinese and Western instruments, performed his composition *Blood* at the Vision Festival (NYC) and Edgefest (MI). *Burning Bridge* has also performed at the Magic Triangle (Mass.) and the International Festival Musique Actuelle (Canada). In 2012, National Public Radio selected *Burning Bridge* as one of the year’s Top CDS and the Downbeat Critics’ Poll voted him “Rising Star for Violin.” In 2011 and 2012 the critics’ poll of *El Intruso* voted him #1 for Violin/Viola. He also released *Symphony of Souls* (Mulatta), performed by his string orchestra *Spontaneous River*, and *Crossroads Unseen*, the third CD of his quartet *EDGE*. In 2010, the NYC Jazz Record selected *Commitment, The Complete Recordings, 1981-1983*, from a collective quartet that was Mr. Hwang’s first band, as one of the “Reissued Recordings of the Year.” Mr. Hwang has received support from Chamber Music America, US Artists International, U.S Embassy in Poland, American Music Center, Meet the Composer/New Residencies, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Rockefeller Foundation, New York Community Trust, Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Greenwall Foundation, and Puffin Foundation. As violinist, Mr. Hwang has worked with Will Connell, Jr., Zen Matsuura, Butch Morris, Pauline Oliveros, Wadada Leo Smith, William Parker, Anthony Braxton, Yoshiko Chuma, Sirone, Jerome Cooper, Vladamir Tarasov, Billy Bang, Dr. Makanda Ken MacIntyre and many others.

**Andrew Drury** (drums) has played with Jason Kao Hwang and Ken Filiano since 2004 in quartet, quintet, octet, tentet, string orchestra, and now trio formations. Originally from Seattle, Drury studied with Ed Blackwell at Wesleyan University in Middletown and was part of the Connecticut jazz scene in the late 80s and early 90s, playing with Wadada Leo Smith, Bill Brown, Hotep Galeta, Steve Davis, Brad Mehldau, and others. Since then Drury has performed on over 50 cds and in 25 countries. As a composer/bandleader his most recent CD, *Content Provider*, was selected as a "Top Ten CD of 2015" by the NYC Jazz Record and his solo CD, *The Drum--on* which he plays a single floor tom with no overdubs or electronics--was called "an ingenious work that highlights Drury's fertile imagination, audacious musicianship and unparalleled virtuosity" by All About Jazz. In addition to his work with Jason Kao Hwang Drury is involved in international collaborations with musicians in Colombia, Argentina, and Germany, and in the US with Frank Lacy, Robert Dick, Stephanie Richards, JD Parran, and Jack Wright. Other projects include recent work with Elliott Sharp, Thomas Buckner, Craig Harris, Howard Johnson, Tomeka Reid, and Kris Davis. He founded and curates the acclaimed Soup & Sound House Concert Series in Brooklyn which has presented over 80 concerts with musicians from around the world.  
[andrewdrury.com](http://andrewdrury.com)

### **KEN FILIANO Double bass / Composer**

Ken Filiano, bass player, composer, improviser, has been performing throughout the world for thirty years, collaborating with leading artists in multiple genres, fusing the rich traditions of the double bass with his own seemingly limitless inventiveness. Ken leads two quartets, *Quantum Entanglements*, and *Baudalino's Dilemma* (Vinny Golia, Warren Smith, Michael TA Thompson), and is a co-leader of *The Steve Adams/Ken Filiano Duo* and *TranceFormation* (Connie Crothers, Andrea Wolper.) His extensive discography includes a solo bass CD, “subvenire” (NineWinds), and “Dreams From a Clown Car” (Clean Feed), which presents his compositions for his quartet,

Quantum Entanglements (Michael Attias, Tony Malaby, Michael TA Thompson). For these and numerous other recordings and performances, critics have called Ken a "creative virtuoso," a "master of technique" . . . "a paradigm of that type of artist. . . who can play anything in any context and make it work, simply because he puts the music first and leaves peripheral considerations behind."\* Ken has performed and/or recorded with Karl Berger, Bobby Bradford, Anthony Braxton, Connie Crothers Quartet, Bill Dixon, Ted Dunbar, Giora Feidman Quartet, Vinny Golia ensembles, Taylor Ho Bynum, Jason Kao Hwang, Joseph Jarman, Raul Juarena, Joelle Leandre, Frank London, Tina Marsh, Warne Marsh, Dom Minasi, Barre Phillips, Roswell Rudd, ROVA Saxophone Qt., Paul Smoker, Peeter Uuskyla, Fay Victor Ensemble, Pablo Zielger, and many more. Ken is on the teaching roster at the New School in New York, and has been a guest artist lecturer at School of Visual Arts and Hunter College (New York). He teaches master classes in bass and improvisation, and has a private bass studio in Brooklyn.

**Chris Forbes** is a composer and improvising pianist based in Brooklyn New York. He studied jazz and composition at Berklee College of Music and then composition at the Juilliard School. Active in the downtown improvising scene he has played with greats such as Sabir Mateen, Daniel Carter and Roy Campbell. He has recorded with Matt Lavelle's Morcilla and Twelve Houses as well as Steve Swell's large ensemble, Nation of We, and on several of Ras Moshe's recordings. He is active in Jason Hwang's Sing House, and the Rocco John Trio. He leads several ensembles including the Chris Forbes Trio and the Quetzalcoatl Project.

**Steve Swell** has been active in the NYC music community since 1975. He has toured and recorded with many artists from mainstreamers such as Lionel Hampton and Buddy Rich to progressive artists like Anthony Braxton, Bill Dixon, Cecil Taylor and William Parker. He has 50 CDs as a leader or co-leader and is featured on more than 125 other releases. He runs workshops around the world and is a teaching artist in the NYC public school system. Steve has worked on music transcriptions of the Bosavi tribe of New Guinea for MacArthur fellow Steve Feld in 2000, received a grant from USArtists International in 2006, an MCAF (LMCC) award in 2008 and 2013 and has been commissioned three times on the Interpretations Series in 2006, 2012 and 2017. In 2014 he received a Creative Curricula grant (LMCC), was nominated Trombonist of the Year 2008 & 2011 (Jazz Journalists Association), and received the 2008 Jubilation Foundation Fellowship Award (Tides Foundation) for his work in NYC public schools and has been recognized by the Downbeat Critics Poll in the Trombone category each year from 2010-2016. He was selected Trombonist of the Year 2008-2010, 2012, 2014-2016 by the Argentinian journal El Intruso. On June 13 of this year Steve will have his piece "Music for Six Musicians" featuring Matt Shipp and Jason Hwang recorded live by Silkheart Records at Metro Baptist Church in NYC. In October 2017 Steve will present his piece with text, "Leaf Peeping in Poland" on his experience visiting the Auschwitz concentration camp for the Interpretations Series at Roulette. [www.steveswell.com](http://www.steveswell.com)