

# DOWNBEAT

Jazz | BY JOHN EPHLAND

**Commitment: *The Complete Recordings 1981/1983* (No Business 14-15; 75:33/48:38; ★★★½)** The New York Loft era Commitment put one album out over its five-year existence, with this collection showcasing mostly new material to enthusiastic audiences. This band featured a young group with fiery, driving Jason Hwang on violin, viola and bird calls; William Parker on bass; drummer Zen Matsuura; and Will Connell Jr. on flutes, alto and bass clarinet. Intensity drives everything, but there's also a magnetic tendency towards space and openness. Hwang's quiescent then rolling "Ocean" lends an air of mystery furthered by "The Pathway" on disc one in contrast to their free-jazz hoe-downs elsewhere. Disc two offers more nuance with moments of serenity and frenetic swing on Parker's "Continuous," more creeping serenity and open sky with Hwang's "Grassy Hills, The Sun" only to return to howling crescendos on Parker's roughhewn swinger "Whole Grain."

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