



Jay Vonada  
*Organ Trio East—Chemistry*  
Self Produced 2014  
C. Michael Bailey – All About Jazz

Trombonist Jay Vonada was spotted last leading his Organ Trio West on *Groovin' It* (Self Produced, 2013). Not allowing any dust to settle on him, Vonada heads eastward, taking up with his East Coast trio (organist Steve Adams and drummer Jim Schade) for a nine original composition stroll that both burns and soothes in equal measures. A trombone-led organ trio may seem a bit odd against the more traditional tenor saxophone or guitar centered trios but it works albeit with less grease than Jimmy Smith or Big John Patton cooked with. Of the nine pieces, five are by Vonada and the remaining four by Adams. Vonada's lengthy "Quietly" boasts a Latin beat by Shade and a throw-back '60s vibe from Adam's (think "Walk on By"). Adams' "Jaybird" extends this '60s vibe with an almost soundtrack-like ambiance, like that often achieved by saxophonist Oliver Nelson. Vonada's soloing on "Jaybird" is characterized by vision and clarity, a warm crystalline idea expressed in sound. Adam's "What the Frack" riffs on a *Battlestar Gallacta* obscenity, freewheeling through mainstream changes that allow for fertile solo space for both Vonada and Adams. Vonada is the master of many performance formats. His organ trio is one that is at once durable and travels light.