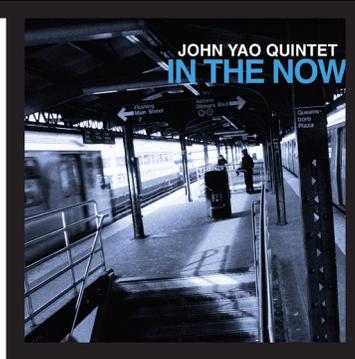




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# John Yao Quintet IN THE NOW



In the Now, the debut album from the John Yao Quintet, signals the definitive arrival of trombonist and composer, John Yao. Demonstrating a broad textural palette and drawing from an array of stylistic influences, Yao explores the concept of opposing forces—of chaos and order, together and apart, individual and group. Each of the album’s eight tracks bears a unique identity, ranging from hard-hitting, experimental jazz to ballads that exude passion, tenderness, complexity, and understanding. In the Now is a musical journey beyond conventional jazz form and structure, with the ensemble winding skillfully through a wide range of moods, colors, and textures.

The title track unleashes a tight but frenzied rhythm section that supports both a simple flowing melody and unfettered, dynamic solos. On tracks like “Divisions” and “Funky Sunday,” Yao floats rubato melodies over compelling grooves. In addition to funk vamps, modal jams, post-bop melodies, and driving swing, the John Yao Quintet also executes two lyrical ballads: the seductive love song “For NDJ” and the somber yet colorful “Shorter Days.” Produced by Grammy Award-winning Vanguard Jazz Orchestra’s Luis Bonilla, the John Yao Quintet executes Yao’s distinctive compositions with intensity and presence.

Performances by the John Yao Quintet are being planned for Spring and Summer 2012 following the album’s release. The band features 2011 DownBeat Critics Poll Rising Star winner and critically acclaimed saxophonist, Jon Irabagon; and recipient of the 2007 ASCAP Young Jazz Composer’s award, the much-lauded pianist, Randy Ingram. Yao also enlisted the time-keeping talents of Will Clark, winner of the 2006 John and Alice Coltrane Foundation Scholarship; and guardian of upright rhythm, Leon Boykins, who recently earned his master’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music.

Owing to his versatility as a trombonist, composer, and arranger, Yao has enjoyed a steady rise on the New York City jazz scene since arriving from his native Chicago. In addition to the the John Yao Quintet, Yao founded, directs and performs in the Yaozeki Big Band, while also working as a sideman for such iconic bands as the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra. Yao received his master’s degree in jazz performance from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College in 2007, and currently resides in Jackson Heights, Queens.

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John Yao, trombone  
 Jon Irabagon, saxes  
 Randy Ingram, keyboards  
 Leon Boykins, bass  
 Will Clark, drums

Divisions  
 Funky Sunday  
 For NDJ  
 In the Now  
 Not Even Close  
 Pink Eye  
 Shorter Days  
 Snafu

MEMEN