



Chris Crenshaw

Owing to his versatility as a trombonist, composer and arranger, **JOHN YAO** has enjoyed a steady rise on the New York City jazz scene since arriving from his native Chicago in 2005. He has worked as a sideman for such iconic bands as the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and the AfroLatin Jazz Orchestra, both of which have had great



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influence on him as bandleader, composer and arranger of the Yaozeki Big Band. Separately, his small ensemble, John Yao Quintet, just released its debut recording *In the Now* on Innova Recordings.

**Teachers:** David Baker, Pat Harbison, Michael Philip Mossman, Luis Bonilla.

**Influences:** Miles Davis, Bob Brookmeyer, Luis Bonilla, Wayne Shorter.

**Current Projects:** Of late, my focus has been on my quintet featuring Jon Irabagon, Randy Ingram, Leon Boykins and Will Clark. My new venture is the trio project, which is something I've wanted to pursue for a while. And last the Yaozeki Big Band, which I co-founded with Yoichi Uzeki in 2009.

**By Day:** Along with teaching a few days a week, I'm practicing, composing, arranging, hustling, more practicing.

**I knew I wanted to be a musician when...** at age 10 I switched from piano to trombone.

**Dream Band:** Miles with Wayne, Herbie, Ron and Tony.

**Did you know?** Some people think I'm ethnically ambiguous, but I am actually half-Chinese.

*For more information, visit [johnyao.com](http://johnyao.com). Yao is at Brooklyn Lyceum May 30th. See Calendar.*