Braxton Cook's 2021 Biography:

Braxton Cook (born March 27, 1991 in Boston, Massachusetts) is an Emmy Award Winning Artist and one of this generation's most exciting emerging voices in the Jazz world. Not only does he exhibit world-class virtuosity on the alto saxophone but he is also a uniquely talented vocalist, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and composer whose sound blends Jazz, Soul, and Alternative R&B into a fresh new sound all his own.

Braxton grew up in Greenbelt, MD and after several moves up and down the east coast his family settled in Silver Spring, Maryland. There, Braxton attended Springbrook High School and studied saxophone under the tutelage of world-class educator Paul Carr. After graduating from Springbrook High School (Silver Spring, MD) in 2009, Braxton attended Georgetown University and studied English with a concentration in African American Studies. In his free time, Braxton worked regularly in the D.C. Jazz scene on the historic U Street strip of Jazz clubs. By age 18, Braxton had already made quite a name for himself in the D.C., by leading his own band at Bohemian Caverns, HR-57, Twins Jazz and many other venues throughout the D.C. area.

In the Fall of 2011, Braxton decided to transfer from Georgetown to The Juilliard School to continue his studies and pursue his music career full-time. As just a freshman at The Juilliard School, Braxton met Grammy Award-nominated trumpeter Christian Scott and became a long-term member in Christian's band honing his skills on the road. Braxton has been featured on several of Christian Scott's studio albums, some of which include *Stretch Music (2015), Diaspora (2017)* and the Grammy-Award nominated album *Emancipation Procrastination (2017)*. He also toured and performed with Christian McBride Big Band, Jon Batiste and Marquis Hill among others. During this time Braxton was also selected as a semi-finalist in the 2013 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition.

In 2014, while still a student, Braxton released his debut EP *Sketch (2014).* The following year in 2015, Braxton graduated from The Juilliard School and continued his musical development with the release of his sophomore project *Braxton Cook Meets Butcher Brown (2015),* launching his solo career and bringing him to festivals and venues across the country. In April of 2017, Braxton released his debut album *Somewhere In Between,* which allowed Braxton to tour both

nationally and internationally to the U.K as well as Japan. In less than a year, *Somewhere in Between* as well as the *Somewhere in Between Remixes & Outtakes* albums have amassed millions of streams and downloads on Spotify and Apple Music and has been praised by peers, musicians and critics alike. *Saint Heron* noted Cook's demonstration of "unmatched flexibility by merging multiple genres into an ardent, passionate and soul-filled project."

In 2017, Fader Magazine named Braxton a "Jazz Marvel" and "Jazz Prodigy." And shortly after, Braxton was listed as Top Five Jazz Artist To Watch (alongside Robert Glasper, Kamasi Washington, Butcher Brown, and Kris Bowers) in the 2018 June Issue of Ebony Magazine.

Outside of the Jazz sphere, Braxton has worked alongside Rihanna at the 2016 VMAs and Solange Knowles; contracting the horn players involved in her live shows at the Guggenheim, Radio City Music Hall, Afro Punk Festival, Panorama Festival, and Made in America Festival. Most recently, Braxton was featured on Phony Ppl's recent album *Mosaic* and performed with them for their NPR Tiny Desk performance. In addition, Braxton was featured on Tom Misch's 2018 U.S. Domestic Tour which started with 2 performances at Coachella and culminated with a very special Tiny Desk performance.

In 2018, Braxton released his sophomore album entitled *No Doubt (Independent)* which debuted at #2 on iTunes Jazz Charts and amassed 6M streams on Spotify. Due to the albums success, he embarked on his first international headlining tour in November of 2018, performing at Tourcoing Jazz Festival, So What's Next Jazz Festival and the legendary Ronnie Scotts Jazz Club in London, U.K. The following Spring of 2019, he performed for Quincy Jones at The Shed for Steve McQueen's *Soundtrack of America*. In Summer of 2019, Braxton performed at the North Sea Jazz Festival and the Montreux Jazz Festival as well.

In Spring of 2020, Braxton released yet another project called *Fire Sign* (Independent) which had amassed over 1M steams in the first couple of weeks of its release. This record grabbed the attention of many national press outlets including NPR. Braxton then created his very own NPR Tiny Desk at home performance which featured music from his entire catalogue. Now relocated in Los Angeles, Braxton is very excited to continue expanding his musical concept, compositional and production skills as well as growing his community.