

JOHN MICHAEL BRADFORD
NOCCA Jazz

John Michael Bradford is poised as a senior to follow in the steps of the elite jazz musicians birthed by New Orleans, the home of Jazz. Like so many before him, John Michael's passion for music was sculpted by the spirit, sounds, and fate of New Orleans. Right before Katrina hit New Orleans, John Michael Bradford and his family were forced to evacuate accompanied by some of his older sister's friends. Among those friends was Sam Williams of Big Sam's Funky Nation. It was during this time of evacuation that John Michael fell in love with the big sound of Sam William's trombone playing, and Mr. Bradford's love affair with music began to blossom.

Since the trombone was Sam's instrument, Mr. Bradford begged his parents for a trombone. Not able to afford one, Mr. Bradford's grandpa decided to give him his old high school trumpet. The gift came just a few months before his ninth birthday, and within the first week, he was playing "Second Line". At the age of ten Mr. Bradford was invited by local tuba player, Mark Smith, to play music with him out at Jackson Square in the French Quarter. Mr. Bradford set to work on the streets of New Orleans playing on his grandpa's old high school trumpet and while doing so, he played with and learned from some of the city's legends. Soon, he began to make money playing his horn not only on the streets, but at second lines, funerals, private parties, and local festivals. Between five to seven months, Mr. Bradford earned enough money to buy himself the professional horn that he still plays today.

Mr. Bradford is a senior at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Academic Studio where he holds a 3.8 average. He has been playing professionally for quite a while now sharing the stage with master musicians and living legends. He is the leader of several bands; a member of Jesse McBride and the Next Generation; Jesse McBride and the Next Generation Big Band; Trumpet Mafia; Donald Harrison's Tipatina Interns; and the Thelonious Monk NOCCA Ensemble; Delfeayo Marsalis Uptown Jazz Orchestra when needed. Some of his accomplishments include entering the New Orleans Center of Creative Arts Jazz department as a level three student; winning the Seeking Satchmo Competition two years; being selected as 1, of 12, Vail Jazz All Stars; selected as 1, of 15, at the Ravinia's Stien Music; winning a full scholarship for several years to the Louis Armstrong Jazz Camp, New Orleans; full scholarship to Skidmore Jazz Camp, New York and a full scholarship to Berklee City Music Five Week Performance Camp for two summers; winning local festival awards; being selected as for the National Society of High School Scholars; modeling for Belk Clothing Southern Music Catalogue; playing Carnegie Hall, New York, with Preservation Hall; Hollywood Palladium, California with Rebelution; the Kennedy Center, Washington, Japan as the trumpet player for Donald Harrison's Tipatina Interns, Cuba as the trumpet player for Louis Armstrong Camp, The World Economic Summit, Switzerland as a NOCCA trio opening for Terrance Blanchard, The Kennedy Center, Washington D.C. as a headliner, and most recently the New Orleans Superdome; and many other prestigious platforms. His personal goal is to bring happiness and a smile to the faces of the people who listen to his music just like Louis Armstrong did.