

ABOUT THEO CROKER

Theo Croker is a storyteller who speaks through his trumpet. A creative who refuses boundaries, the GRAMMY® Award-nominated artist, composer, producer, thought leader, and influencer projects his voice through the music. After seven years of sojourn in Shanghai, Croker crash-landed with a simmering original sound on the 2014 Dee Dee Bridgewater-assisted album *AfroPhysicist*. Following the success of *Escape Velocity* in 2016, he ascended to a new stratosphere with *Star People Nation* in 2019. The record garnered a nomination in the category of "Best Contemporary Instrumental Album" at the 62nd GRAMMY® Awards. It attracted widespread critical acclaim including *Stereogum*, *Paste*, and *The New York Times* who called it "an album that gallivants from swirling, left-field hip-hop beats to propellant swing to entrancing passages of African percussion. Through it all, Croker's understated trumpet playing holds his small band together with swagger and poise." Along the way, he also lent his sound to platinum-selling albums by everyone from J. Cole to Ari Lennox while touring his band across the globe many times over. In 2020, he hunkered down at his childhood home in the midst of the global pandemic and wrote his sixth full-length album *BLK2LIFE || A FUTURE PAST (Sony Music Masterworks)*, enlisting a star-studded group of featured artists including Wyclef Jean, Ari Lennox, Gary Bartz, Charlotte Dos Santos, Iman Omari, Malaya, and Kassa Overall across the album's 13 tracks. Upon release in September 2021, Theo made his late-night TV debut with a performance on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Widespread critical acclaim followed, with *The New York Times* including the "smoldering neo-jazz collection" as Fall preview pick and *CLASH* simply declaring the album "a vital experience" and Croker's "finest moment yet." In 2022, Croker released the follow-up album, *LOVE QUANTUM*, featuring Jill Scott, Jamila Woods, and Teedra Moses, to name a few, which made *Stereogum*'s Best Jazz Albums of 2022. Croker kicks off 2023 with a new track "THEO SAYS" featuring UK Jazz / Soul singer-songwriter Ego Ella May, which debuted on top of Apple Music's New Music Daily Playlist. The song is the first to be released from Croker's forthcoming EP, *BY THE WAY*, featuring Ego Ella May, and arrives February 17, 2023.