Saxophonist and composer Hitomi Oba was raised in Berkeley, California. Hitomi completed her MA at the University of California at Los Angeles in Music Composition after receiving her BA in Ethnomusicology/Jazz Studies from UCLA two years before.

Her second jazz album, "Negai," released under Japanese label M&I and distributor Pony Canyon, Inc., received the prestigious "Swing Journal 42nd Annual Jazz Disc Awards, New Star Award," following her critically acclaimed first album, "First Flight."

Recent projects of Hitomi's include leading her own small ensembles in the U.S. and abroad, co-founding the composer/performer new music collective L.A. Signal Lab, co-directing and writing for Jazz Nexus, her sixteen-piece jazz orchestra devoted to performing creative original music, releasing the album, "Periapsis," by her progressive, electro-acoustic pop duo, Nova, and co-writing and producing the collaborative jazz opera, "Strange Fellowe."

In addition to writing for her own ensembles, Hitomi has been commissioned to write and arrange, while also playing, for a variety of jazz and genre-diverse ensembles including Jon Jang's Pan-Asian Arkestra with guest members from the award-winning Taiko Project, Kenny Burrell's Los Angeles Jazz Orchestra Unlimited, and the Indian classical and jazz collaborative Aditya Prakash Ensemble, most notably for the Carnatic/jazz fusion and theatrical dance production "Mara" at the Ford Theater in Los Angeles.