



Wynton Marsalis

FACT SHEET 2023

Wynton Marsalis is a world-renowned trumpeter, bandleader, composer, educator, and advocate for American culture. He presently serves as Managing and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, Director of Jazz Studies at The Juilliard School, and President of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation. He has stood as the Music Director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra since its founding in 1988. From the time he formed his first quintet in 1981, Marsalis has performed 4,862 concerts in 856 distinct cities and 65 countries across the globe.

EARLY LIFE

- Born on October 18, 1961, in New Orleans, Louisiana, Wynton is the second of six sons to Ellis and Dolores Marsalis.
- Age 8: performed traditional New Orleans jazz music in the Fairview Baptist Church band led by legendary banjoist Danny Barker.
- Age 12: began studying the trumpet seriously and gained experience as a young musician in local marching, jazz and funk bands and classical youth orchestras.
- Age 14: was invited to perform the Haydn Trumpet Concerto with the New Orleans Philharmonic.
- Age 17: became the youngest musician ever to be admitted to Tanglewood's Berkshire Music Center and was awarded the school's prestigious Harvey Shapiro Award for outstanding brass student.
- 1979: Entered the Juilliard School in New York City to study classical trumpet.
- 1979: Sat in with Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers to pursue his true love, jazz music.
- 1980: Joined Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers.
- In the years to follow, performed with Sarah Vaughan, Dizzy Gillespie, Gerry Mulligan, John Lewis, Sweets Edison, Clark Terry, Sonny Rollins, and countless other jazz legends.

ACCLAIMED MUSICIAN, COMPOSER, BANDLEADER

- 1982: Recording debut as a bandleader
- 1983: Became the first and only artist to win both classical and jazz GRAMMY® Awards in one year
- 1984: Won both classical and jazz GRAMMY® Awards for a second year
- 1997: Released *Blood on the Fields* with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, John Hendricks and Cassandra Wilson



- 1999: Released 8 new recordings in his unprecedented “Swinging into the 21st” series, which includes a 7-CD boxed set, Live from the Village Vanguard
- 2020: Released *The Ever Fonky Lowdown* with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, narrated by acclaimed actor Wendell Pierce and featuring Camille Thurman, Ashley Pezzotti, Christie Dashiell, Bobby Allende, Ricky “Dirty Red” Gordon
- 2021: Released *The Democracy! Suite* with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
- Has recorded over 110 jazz and classical recordings for Columbia Jazz, Sony Classical, Blue Note Records, Blue Engine Records
- Won 9 GRAMMY® Awards to date

RECEIVED COMMISSIONS TO CREATE MAJOR COMPOSITIONS FOR:

- Garth Fagan Dance
- Peter Martins at the New York City Ballet
- Twyla Tharp for the American Ballet Theatre
- Judith Jamison at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre
- In 1995: with Jazz at Lincoln Center, collaborated with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center to compose the string quartet *At the Octoroon Balls*
- 1996: Collaborated with Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center to create a response to Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale* with his composition *A Fiddler's Tale*
- 1999: Presented *All Rise*, an epic composition for big band, gospel choir, and symphony orchestra, performed by the New York Philharmonic under the baton of Kurt Masur along with the Morgan State University Choir and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

MARSALIS’ RICH BODY OF WORK INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO):

- ◇ 1992: *In This House, On This Morning*, an extended piece based on the form of a traditional gospel service, was commissioned and premiered by Jazz at Lincoln Center in 1992
- ◇ 1992: *Citi Movement/Griot New York*, a three-movement composition created in collaboration with choreographer Garth Fagan
- ◇ 1993: *Jazz: Six Syncopated Movements*, from the 1993 Jazz at Lincoln Center collaboration with the New York City Ballet
- ◇ 1995: *Jump Start*, a score written for dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp
- ◇ 1996: *Sweet Release*, a score for ballet for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and choreographed by Judith Jamison for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
- ◇ 1997: *Blood on the Fields*, jazz oratorio with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, John Hendricks and Cassandra Wilson
- ◇ 1998: *A Fiddler's Tale*, Marsalis's response to Stravinsky's *A Soldier' Tale*



- ◇ 1999: *Them Twos*, his first symphonic work and the second collaboration between Jazz at Lincoln Center and the New York City Ballet
- ◇ 2001: *All Rise*, Marsalis's most grand-scale work since *Blood on the Fields*
- ◇ 2008: *The Abyssinian Mass*, commissioned to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church.
- ◇ 2009: *Blues Symphony*
- ◇ 2010: *Swing Symphony*, inspired by the works of Ives, Gershwin, Copland, Bernstein, and Ellington
- ◇ 2015: *Concerto in D (for Violin and Orchestra)*, composed for violinist Nicola Benedetti
- ◇ 2016: *The Jungle*, inspired by the "urban jungle" of New York City
- ◇ 2018: *The Ever Fonky Lowdown*, a funky jazz parable
- ◇ 2019: *The Shanghai Suite*
- ◇ 2020: *The Democracy! Suite*, celebrating jazz as the ultimate metaphor for American democracy
- ◇ 2021: *4 Bassoons Talking*
- ◇ 2021: *Concerto for Tubist and Orchestra*, composed for tubist Carol Jantsch
- ◇ 2022: *Herald, Holler and Hallelujah!*, a fanfare for brass and percussion
- 2006: Co-wrote a composition called *Congo Square* with Ghanaian drummer Yacub Addy and dedicated the piece to Marsalis' native New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center
- On April 23, 2006, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra premiered *Congo Square* in New Orleans in collaboration with Yacub Addy's group Odadaa!
- 2006 and 2007: Marsalis toured *Congo Square* program throughout the U.S. with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Odadaa!
- Has performed with the world's leading philharmonic and symphonic orchestras, including: The New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, The Cleveland Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and London's Royal Philharmonic

IN 2015, JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER LAUNCHED ITS RECORD LABEL, BLUE ENGINE RECORDS. ON BLUE ENGINE, MARSALIS HAS RECORDED 20 FULL-LENGTH ALBUMS WITH THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA, AND 1 WITH THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA TO DATE:

- ◇ *Live in Cuba*, 2015
- ◇ *Big Band Holidays*, 2015
- ◇ *Abyssinian Mass*, 2016
- ◇ *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen; Little Drummer Boy*, 2016
- ◇ *The Music of John Lewis*, 2017



- ◇ *All Jazz Is Modern: 30 Years of Jazz at Lincoln Center*, 2017
- ◇ *Handful of Keys*, 2017
- ◇ *United We Swing: Best of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Galas*, 2018
- ◇ *Una Noche con Rubén Blades*, 2018
- ◇ *Swing Symphony*, 2019
- ◇ *Jazz and Art*, 2019
- ◇ *Jazz For Kids*, 2019
- ◇ *Sherman Irby's Inferno*, 2020
- ◇ *The Music of Wayne Shorter*, 2020
- ◇ *Black, Brown & Beige*, 2020
- ◇ *Rock Chalk Suite*, 2020
- ◇ *Christopher Crenshaw's The Fifties: A Prism*, 2020
- ◇ *The Ever Fonky Lowdown*, 2020
- ◇ *A Swingin' Sesame Street Celebration*, 2020
- ◇ *The Democracy! Suite*, 2021
- ◇ *Blues Symphony- The Philadelphia Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis*, 2021

SELECT AWARDS AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION:

- ◇ Pulitzer Prize in Music, 1997
 - ◇ Algur H. Meadows Award for Excellence in the Arts, 1997
 - ◇ Appointed United Nations Messenger of Peace by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2001
 - ◇ Congressional Horizon Award, 2002
 - ◇ National Medal of Arts, bestowed by the President George W. Bush in 2005
 - ◇ French Grand Prix du Disque, 2010
 - ◇ National Humanities Medal, bestowed by President Barack Obama in 2015
 - ◇ Louis Armstrong Memorial Medal
 - ◇ Netherlands' Edison Award
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- Marsalis is the recipient of a myriad of plaques as well as keys to more than 50 cities, including New York City in 2021
 - Inducted into the American Academy of Achievement, 1988
 - Named an "Honorary Dreamer" by the I Have a Dream Foundation
 - Received a citation from the United States House of Representatives for his outstanding contributions to the arts
 - 1995: Named one of America's most promising leaders under the age of 40 in *Time* magazine
 - 1996: *Time* magazine celebrated Marsalis as one of "America's 25 Most Influential People"



- 1996: Named one of "The 50 Most Influential Boomers" by *Life* magazine
- 1997: Became the first jazz artist to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his work *Blood On The Fields*, which was commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center
- 2010: Winner of the NAACP Image Awards' "Outstanding Jazz Album" Award for *He and She* (2009)
- 2017: Recipient of the Lincoln Center Hall of Fame Award
- 2019: Recipient of the Dushkin Award, presented by the Music Institute of Chicago
- 2019: Recipient of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy's Excellence in Cultural Diplomacy and International Engagement Award
- 2021: Recipient of the Ken Bruns American Heritage Prize presented by the American Prairie Reserve
- 2021: Named "La Ministre de la Culture" by Commandeur de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, French Republic
- 2021: Inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters

DEDICATION TO RE-BUILDING NEW ORLEANS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA

- In 2006, was instrumental in The Higher Ground Hurricane Relief concert produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center and has raised over \$3 million for relief efforts.

RECOGNITION AS AN ADVOCATE, EDUCATOR, AND CULTURAL LEADER:

- Has received 41 honorary degrees from many of the nation's leading academic institutions, including Columbia, Brown, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale universities.
- 1987: Co-founded a summer "Classical Jazz" concert series at Lincoln Center
- Since 1993, has led the famed *Jazz for Young People* concert series, with more than 40 original programs written and delivered to students around the world.
- 1995: Founded famed Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Program, that has reached more than 275,000 students in more than 4,000 high schools across North America culminating in annual competition and festival at Frederick P. Rose Hall. Programming has expanded to include the Jack Rudin Jazz Championship for college-age students.
- 1996: Named Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC), a full constituent of Lincoln Center Inc. Marsalis is now the Managing and Artistic Director. JALC is equal in stature with the ten other organizations on Lincoln Center's campus, including the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera and New York City Ballet. This marked a historic moment for jazz as an art form and for Lincoln Center as a cultural institution. Since its inception, Jazz at Lincoln Center has successfully implemented its mission to entertain, enrich and expand a global community for jazz music through performance, education and advocacy.
- 1996: Wrote the curriculum and programmed the *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Program and Competition
- 2000: Launched annual Band Director Academy with "Why Teach Jazz?" address, which was published as a chapter in *Teaching Music Through Performance in Jazz* resource in 2008 (GIA Publications, Inc.)
- 2002: Wrote and narrated the *Jazz for Young People* curriculum distributed across the U.S., reaching



tens of thousands of students

- 2003: Sat on the panel for Jazz and Democracy with President Clinton and others leading to development of early childhood program, *WeBop!*
- Between 2011 and 2014, Marsalis delivered a series of six lectures titled *Hidden in Plain View: Meanings in American Music* at Harvard University
- 2014: Named the Director of Jazz Studies at The Juilliard School
- Named President of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation

TV & RADIO PROGRAMS MARSALIS HAS HOSTED, TV PROGRAMS AND MOVIES FEATURING MARSALIS'S MUSIC:

- ◇ *Marsalis on Music* (Peabody Award recipient), 1995
PBS program released as a 4-disk DVD box set
- ◇ Ken Burns' *Jazz and Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson* (PBS), 2004
- ◇ BET Jazz series *Journey with Jazz at Lincoln Center*, 2002
- ◇ Jazz at Lincoln Center Radio with Wynton Marsalis Making the Music for National Public Radio (NPR) (Peabody Award recipient)
- ◇ Jazz For Young People Concert: "What is New Orleans Jazz?" (LPB-PBS), 2006
- ◇ Ken Burns' *The War*, soundtrack (PBS), 2007
Soundtrack recording to Ken Burns' PBS documentary about World War II
- ◇ *The History of the Trumpet*, 2008
- ◇ *Bolden* (Original Soundtrack), 2019
- ◇ *Motherless Brooklyn* (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), 2019
- ◇ *NPR Tiny Desk (Home) Concert* featuring the JLCO Septet with Wynton Marsalis, 2021
Featuring *The Democracy! Suite* (2021)
- ◇ *In a Different Key* documentary, 2022
Features Marsalis's original compositions "Math," "Cosmos," "Community"

HAS AUTHORED 7 BOOKS:

- ◇ *Sweet Swing Blues on the Road*, a collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center photographer Frank Stewart. Thunder's Mouth Press, 1994
- ◇ *Jazz in the Bittersweet Blues of Life* co-authored by Carl Vigeland. Da Capo Press, 2002
- ◇ *To a Young Musician: Letters from the Road*. Random House, 2004
- ◇ *Jazz ABZ*, an A-to-Z collection of 26 poems celebrating jazz greats, illustrated by poster



artist Paul Rogers. Contributor: Phil Schaap. Candlewick Press, 2007

- ◇ *Moving to Higher Ground: How Jazz Can Change Your Life*, co-authored by Geoffrey C. Ward. Random House, 2008
- ◇ *Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp! – A Sonic Adventure*, illustrated by Paul Rogers. Candlewick Press, 2012
- ◇ Co-authored *In the Spirit of Swing: The First 25 Years of Jazz at Lincoln Center*, with photographs by Frank Stewart and contributions from the Jazz at Lincoln Center community. Chronicle Books, 2012