

Jazz at Lincoln Center voted newest mainstay

Jazz at Lincoln Center, established by Lincoln Center Inc. as a full-time, year-round department in 1991, has become Lincoln Center's newest constituent organization in a vote by the Lincoln Center board. Earlier, on Dec. 6, the board of Jazz at Lincoln Center also voted

to approve constituency. Jazz at Lincoln Center is the first constituent to be created by Lincoln Center Inc. since The Film Society of Lincoln Center and The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in 1969.

Beginning July 1, 1996, the start of its inaugural season, Jazz

at Lincoln Center will be artistically and financially independent with its own board of directors chaired by Gordon J. Davis. The program will continue to be managed by executive director Rob Gibson with artistic director Wynton Marsalis.

"We are proud to take our place among the other outstanding organizations in the Lincoln Center family," Marsalis said. "The action places the uniquely American legacy of swing and blues as a history to be valued, an artistic achievement that is on par with the most magnificent works of Western classical music, dance, theater and film. Jazz at Lincoln Center is committed to the fact that the contributions of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and countless others should be built upon as we seek to provide a basis for the appreciation of the universality of American aesthetic expression."

"We plan to carry on the work only just begun," said Gordon J. Davis, "so that this vibrant American art form will flourish. We have already assembled a superb and distinguished board which consists of leaders from the fields of business, law, education, finance, culture and media. Through their efforts, as well as the efforts of Lincoln Center, our endowment stands at \$3.4 million, well on our way toward our goal of \$5 million. With this achievement, well ahead of the schedule drawn up a year ago, I am confident that our board is ready to assume the leadership that constituency requires."

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Beverly Sills said. "It is especially gratifying to see America's glorious musical heritage given the recognition it truly deserves, and we look forward to the many creative collaborations that lie ahead."

"This is a day we have been working toward since the inception of 'Jazz at Lincoln Center,'" Lincoln Center president Nathan Leventhal said. "From the beginning we strongly believed that jazz richly deserved a home here at Lincoln Center, and the program's success has more than proven it to be true. We congratulate Rob, Wynton and the entire jazz staff on their accomplishments and wish them continued success. 'Jazz at Lincoln Center' is truly the most important jazz program in America."

"We are pleased and gratified that 'Jazz at Lincoln Center' has realized the vision we expressed five years ago to establish the value of jazz as fine art within the context of America's premier performing arts center," said Rob Gibson. "We look forward to continuing our mission of producing first class programming and showcasing the rich canon of jazz masterworks in every corner of the world."

"Jazz at Lincoln Center," called "the most prestigious organization of its kind in the world" by *The Times* (London), was created in 1991 under the guidance and leadership of Nathan Leventhal and George Weissman, Lincoln Center's former chairman. The program, led by Marsalis and

Alina Bloomgarden and "Jazz at Lincoln Center" artistic consultants Albert Murray and Stanley Crouch.