

Wynton Marsalis *FACT SHEET*

Wynton Marsalis, as Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center since its inception in 1987, in addition to performing as Music Director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra since it began in 1988, has:

Early Life

- Born on October 18, 1961, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the second of six sons to Ellis and Dolores Marsalis
- At age 8, performed traditional New Orleans music in the Fairview Baptist Church band led by legendary banjoist Danny Barker
- At 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
- At 14, was invited to perform the Haydn Trumpet Concerto with the New Orleans Philharmonic
- At 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
- In 1979, entered The Juilliard School in New York City to study classical trumpet
- In 1979, sat in with Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers to pursue his true love, jazz music.
- In 1980, joined the band led by acclaimed master drummer Art Blakey
- 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

- In 1982, made recording debut as a leader
- In 1983, became the first and only artist to win both classical and jazz GRAMMY® awards in one year
- In 1984, won classical and jazz GRAMMY® awards for a second year
- In 1997, with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, John Hendricks and Cassandra Wilson, released *Blood On The Fields*
- In 1999, released 8 new recordings in his unprecedented *Swinging into the 21st* series, which includes a 7-CD boxed set of live performances from the Village Vanguard

- Has recorded over 45 jazz and classical recordings for Columbia Jazz and Sony Classical
- Has won 9 GRAMMY® awards
- Has 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*
- In 1998, with Jazz at Lincoln Center, collaborated with 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*
- In 1999, presented his most ambitious work to date, *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:
 - *Them Twos*, his first symphonic work and the second collaboration between Jazz at Lincoln Center and the New York City Ballet in 1999
 - *Big Train*, commissioned and premiered in 1998 by Jazz at Lincoln Center
 - *Blood On The Fields*, jazz oratorio with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, John Hendricks and Cassandra Wilson
 - *Sweet Release*, a score for ballet, written in 1996, for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and choreographed by Judith Jamison for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
 - *Jazz: Six Syncopated Movements*, from the 1993 Jazz at Lincoln Center collaboration with the New York City Ballet
 - *Jump Start*, a score written for dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp
 - *Citi Movement/Griot New York*, a three-movement composition created in collaboration with choreographer Garth Fagan
 - *In This House, On This Morning*, an extended piece based on the form of a traditional gospel service, commissioned and premiered by Jazz at Lincoln Center in 1992
- In 2004, signed to Blue Note Records and released 4 CDs:
 - *The Magic Hour*, a quartet recording (2004)
 - *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson* (2004), the companion soundtrack recording to Ken Burns' PBS documentary of the great African-American boxer

- *Wynton Marsalis Live at The House Of Tribes* (2005)
- *From the Plantation to the Penitentiary* (2007)
- In 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, in collaboration with Yacub Addy's group Odadaa!, premiered *Congo Square* in New Orleans
- In 2006 and 2007, toured *Congo Square* throughout the U.S.
- Has performed with the world's leading symphonic orchestras

Advocate, Educator, Cultural Leader

- Has received 29 honorary degrees from many of the nation's leading academic institutions, including Columbia, Brown, Harvard, Princeton and Yale universities
- In 1987, co-founded a jazz program at Lincoln Center
- In December 1996, was named Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center now a full constituent of Lincoln Center, equal in stature with the ten other organizations on campus including the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera and New York City Ballet—a historic moment for jazz as an art form and for Lincoln Center as a cultural institution. Jazz at Lincoln Center has developed an international agenda with thousands of programs around the world
- Since 1993, has led the famed Jazz for Young People concert series, with more than 40 original programs written and delivered
- In 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 & festival in at Frederick P. Rose Hall
- In 2002, wrote and narrated Jazz for Young People curriculum distributed across the U.S. reaching thousands
- In 2003 participated on panel with regard to Jazz and Democracy with President Clinton and others leading to development of early childhood program, WeBop!
- Non-profit organizations to which Marsalis has dedicated his time and talent:
 - My Sister's Place (a shelter for battered women)
 - Graham Windham (a shelter for homeless children)
 - Children's Defense Fund
 - Amnesty International
 - Sloan-Kettering Cancer Institute
 - Food For All Seasons (a food bank for the elderly and disadvantaged)
 - Very Special Arts (an organization that provides experiences in dance, drama, literature, and music for individuals with physical and mental disabilities)
 - Newark Boys Chorus School (a full-time academic music school for disadvantaged youths)

- Television and programs he has hosted or feature his music:
 - *Marsalis on Music*
 - Ken Burns' *Jazz* and *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson* (PBS)
 - BET Jazz series *Journey with Jazz at Lincoln Center*
 - *Jazz at Lincoln Center Radio with Wynton Marsalis* (Peabody Award recipient)
 - *Making the Music* for National Public Radio (NPR)
 - *Jazz For Young People Concert: What is New Orleans Jazz (LPB-PBS)*
 - *Making the Music* for National Public Radio (NPR)
- Has authored 4 books
 - *Jazz in the Bittersweet Blues of Life* co-authored by Carl Vigeland
 - *To a Young Musician: Letters from the Road*, published by Random House
 - *Sweet Swing Blues on the Road*, a collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center photographer Frank Stewart
 - *Jazz ABZ*, an A to Z collection of 26 poems celebrating jazz greats, illustrated by poster artist Paul Rogers
- Has written a curriculum and programmed a concert series and high school jazz band program called *Essentially Ellington*
- In July 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

Worldwide Recognition

- In 1997, became the first jazz artist to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize in music for his work *Blood On The Fields*, which was commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center
- In 1995, named one of America's most promising leaders under age 40 in *Time* magazine
- In 1996, *Time* celebrated Marsalis as one of "America's 25 Most Influential People"
- In 1996, named one of "The 50 Most Influential Boomers" by *Life* magazine
- In 2001, named international ambassador of goodwill by appointing him a United Nations Messenger of Peace by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan
- Has been awarded the following:
 - Congressional Horizon Award
 - the French Grand Prix du Disque,
 - the Louis Armstrong Memorial Medal
 - the Netherlands' Edison Award

- the Algur H. Meadows Award for Excellence in the Arts
- Has received countless plaques as well as keys to more than 50 cities
- Has been inducted into the American Academy of Achievement
- Was dubbed an “Honorary Dreamer” by the I Have a Dream Foundation
- Has received a citation from the United States House of Representatives for his outstanding contributions to the arts

Dedication to Re-building New Orleans

- 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

#