



WYNTON MARSALIS FACT SHEET 2009

WYNTON MARSALIS, IS THE 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 age 14, was invited to perform the Haydn Trumpet Concerto with the New Orleans Philharmonic
- At 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 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

- 1982 Recording debut as a leader
- 1983 Became the first and only artist to win both classical and jazz GRAMMY® Awards in one year
- 1984 Won 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*
- Has recorded over 45 jazz and classical recordings for Columbia Jazz, Sony Classical
- 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 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:

- 1993 *Jazz: Six Syncopated Movements*, from the 1993 Jazz at Lincoln Center collaboration with the New York City Ballet
- 1999 *Them Twos*, his first symphonic work and the second collaboration between Jazz at Lincoln Center and the New York City Ballet
- *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
- 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
- *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)

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)

- 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
- 2006 and 2007, toured *Congo Square* program throughout the U.S.
- Has performed with the world's leading symphonic orchestras



WORLDWIDE RECOGNITION:

- 1995 Named one of America's most promising leaders under age 40 in *Time* magazine
- 1996 Written a curriculum and programmed the *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Program and Competition
- 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
- 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
- 2001 Named International Ambassador of Goodwill by appointing him a United Nations Messenger of Peace by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan

AWARD'S

Congressional Horizon Award
French Grand Prix du Disque
Pulitzer Prize
Louis Armstrong Memorial Medal
Netherlands' Edison Award
Algur H. Meadows Award for Excellence in the Arts
The Chubb Fellow from Yale

- Has received countless plaques as well as keys to more than 50 cities
- Inducted into the American Academy of Achievement
- 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

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

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
- 1987 Co-founded a jazz program at Lincoln Center
- Since 1993, has led the famed *Jazz for Young People* concert series, with more than 40 original programs written and delivered
- 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



- 1996 Named Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center now a full constituent of Lincoln Center Inc., 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
- 2002 Wrote and narrated *Jazz for Young People* curriculum distributed across the U.S. reaching thousands
- 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 FEATURED 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)
Ken Burns' *The War*, soundtrack (PBS)
Soundtrack recording to Ken Burns' PBS documentary about World War II

HAS AUTHORED 5 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
Moving to Higher Ground: How Jazz Can Change Your Life, co-authored by Geoffrey C. Ward and published by Random House