

Chapter

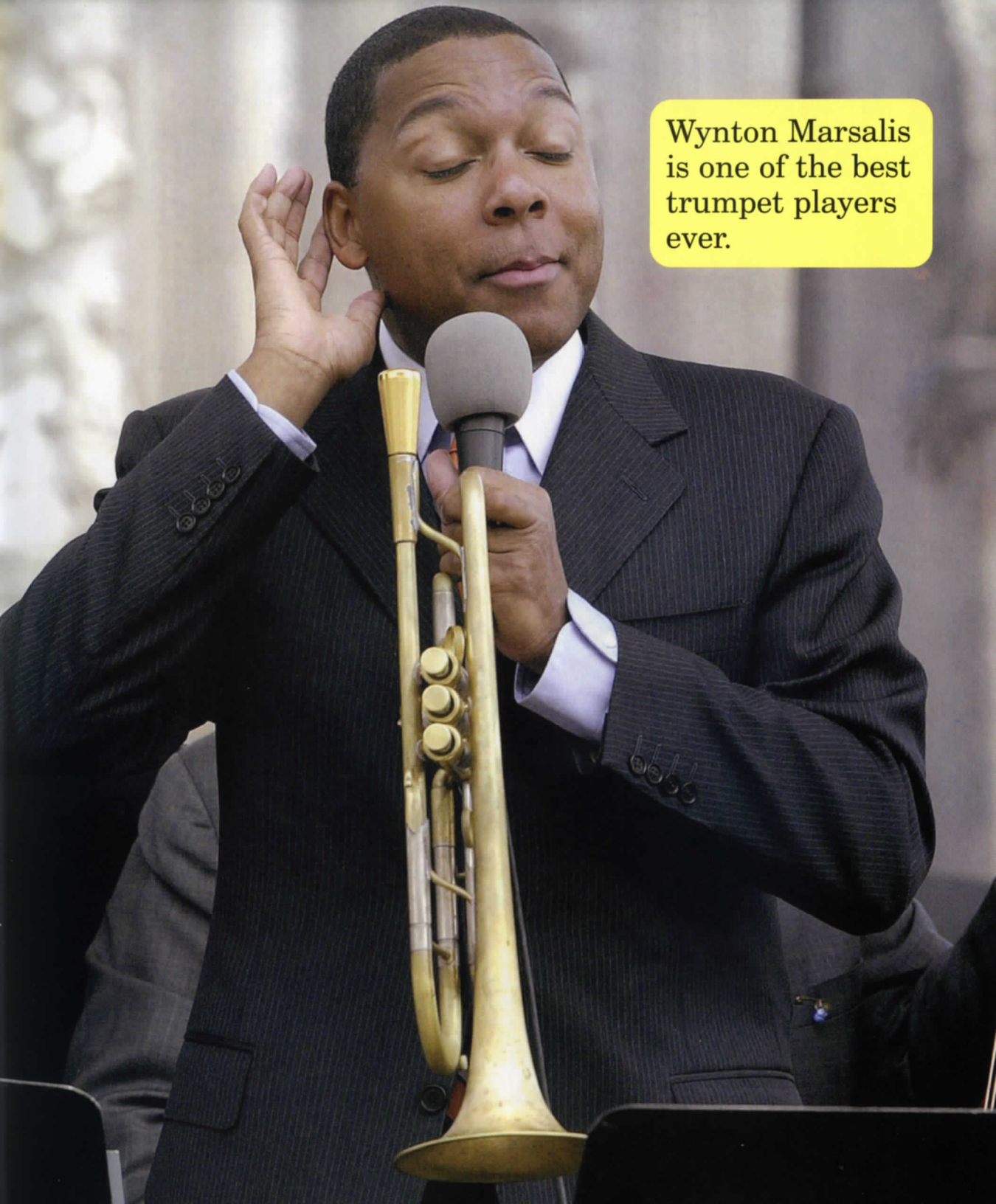
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Growing Up With Music

Wynton Marsalis was born in New Orleans on October 18, 1961. Wynton's father, Ellis, and his mother, Dolores, loved music. Their favorite kind of music was **jazz**.



Ellis was a piano player who played in New Orleans jazz clubs. Ellis and Dolores hoped that their children would also become **musicians**. They named Wynton after a jazz piano player, Wynton Kelly.



Wynton Marsalis is one of the best trumpet players ever.

While Wynton was growing up, the house was always filled with the sounds of music. Wynton could hear people playing all over the house. Ellis would play the piano. Wynton's older brother, Branford, would be in a different room practicing the saxophone. Wynton's younger brother, Delfeayo, was learning to play the trombone. And his youngest brother, Jason, played the drums.



This picture shows, from left to right, Jason, Branford, Wynton, and their father, Ellis.

The famous trumpet player Al Hirt gave Wynton his first trumpet.



When Wynton was six, the well-known trumpet player Al Hirt gave him a trumpet. Wynton had his first trumpet lesson. But he was not really interested in learning how to play the trumpet. He did not want to spend hours a day practicing. Wynton would much rather play ball in the street with his friends.