

# Trumpet man Marsalis teaches Detroit kids the art of self-expression

## SOUND IDEAS

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Wynton Marsalis, trumpet in hand, asks for a volunteer to step to the microphone and say the word "No" four different ways. The lesson is how music can express personality.

A girl in pigtails steps up: "No!" "I don't *think* so." "Nooooo." "It's *not* going to work!" The 200 students squeezed onto the floor of the tiny auditorium at Hosmer Elementary School giggle.

Marsalis smiles. Then he points out that just as we can express the concept of *no* in a personal way, musicians express their personalities when they play. To drive the point home, he plays a CD of the Duke Ellington band performing "C Jam Blues" with a

string of some of the most idiosyncratic jazz soloists ever — Ray Nance, Rex Stewart, Tricky Sam Nanton among them. They each tell a different story in their 12-bar choruses.

On this sunny Thursday afternoon, Marsalis has come to this school on Detroit's east side to lead a How to Listen session, an interactive music appreciation program that the 34-year-old jazz celebrity is taking to schools in four cities this spring.

The cost of the program, which includes a concert in each city featuring Marsalis' octet, is being underwritten by Harmon International, an audio-equipment company. The Detroit concert is June 29 at Orchestra Hall.

Sydney Harmon, CEO of Harmon International, usually appears with



KARIN ANDERSON/Detroit Free Press

**Students at Detroit's Hosmer Elementary School listen Thursday to Wynton Marsalis, who encouraged them to hear individuality.**

Marsalis. But on Thursday, Harmon's son, Paul, a New York actor, stood in for his father. Marsalis and Harmon left Hosmer Elementary stereo equip-

ment worth nearly \$3,000. In fact, all 19 elementary schools in Detroit's

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