THE MORE PROFOUN
THE PAIN,
THE DEEPER
THE GROOVE.
The *Blues Symphony* is a seven-movement work that gives a symphonic identity to the form and feeling of the blues. It utilizes regional and stylistic particulars of the idiom’s language and form to convey the basic point of view of the blues as music: “Life hands you hard times.”

When you cry, holler, and shout to release those hard times; when you tease, cajole, and play to diminish them; and when you dance and find a common community through groove, better times will be found. The more profound the pain, the deeper the groove.

This piece is intended to further the legacy of Scott Joplin, George Gershwin, James P. Johnson, Leonard Bernstein, John Lewis, Gunther Schuller, and others who were determined to add the innovations of jazz to the vocabulary of the symphonic orchestra. I believe there is an organic and real connection between all Western traditions regardless of instrumentation, and that the symphonic orchestra can and will swing, play the blues, feature melodic improvisation, and execute the more virtuosic aspects of jazz and American vernacular music with absolute authenticity.

—Wynton Marsalis, April 2021
MOVEMENT I: BORN IN HOPE

MOVEMENT II: SWIMMING IN SORROW

MOVEMENT III: RECONSTRUCTION RAG

MOVEMENT IV: SOUTHWESTERN SHAKEDOWN

MOVEMENT V: BIG CITY BREAKS

MOVEMENT VI: DANZÓN Y MAMBO, CHORO Y SAMBA

MOVEMENT VII: DIALOG IN DEMOCRACY

ALL COMPOSITIONS BY WYNTON MARSALIS
SKAYNE’S MUSIC (ASCAP)
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The Philadelphia Orchestra, 2019-2020 Season
Conducted by Cristian Măcelaru

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