

THE MOST FAMOUS trumpet player in the world steps out onto the stage. His name is Wynton Marsalis. He stands next to the microphone and waves at all the people who have come to hear him play.

“Good evening, ladies and gentlemen,” he says. “Thank you for coming out tonight. We hope you enjoy yourselves. Because we are here to swing.”



With that, Wynton puts his trumpet to his lips. For the next three hours, the audience will listen to the wonderful music that Wynton and his band play so well. Some of the songs are fast. Some are slow. Some songs sound happy. Others sound sad. But, one way or another, all of them are beautiful.

When the concert is over, the audience stands up and claps. They whistle and cheer. Everyone loves what they heard. Just as Wynton had hoped, they have all enjoyed themselves.

But the night is not over for Wynton. A group of children is waiting for him backstage. All of the children have musical instruments. After his concerts, Wynton gives music lessons to children who want to learn how to play their instruments better. Wynton loves playing music for an audience, but teaching children about music is Wynton's favorite part of the night.



*Wynton demonstrates his technique to music students.*

“Do you have something you want me to hear?” Wynton asks a serious-looking boy who is holding a trumpet.

“Yes I do, Mr. Marsalis,” the boy says.

“Just call me Wynton. Now let’s hear what you have.”

The boy smiles and begins playing his horn. Wynton listens carefully. He knows how important it is for children to be given encouragement. Learning to play an instrument takes patience.

Sometimes it can be very hard. So it means a lot to be encouraged by such a famous musician. Wynton wants all the children he teaches to know that when he first started playing the trumpet, he couldn't play it very well at all. But now, thanks to years of practice, he plays the trumpet better than almost anyone else.

Wynton was born on October 18, 1961, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The house where he grew up was filled with music. His father, Ellis Marsalis, played the piano. His older brother, Branford, played the saxophone. His younger brother, Delfaeyo, played the trombone. His youngest brother, Jason, played the drums. With so many musicians living there, music could be heard at the Marsalis house at any time of day. One of the Marsalis brothers might be in the kitchen, blowing his