

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS
Boyer College of Music and Dance

Master Class
Wynton Marsalis, trumpet

September 9, 2020
Presented Virtually

Wednesday
4:30 pm

Program

WYNTON MARSALIS is an internationally acclaimed musician, composer, bandleader, educator and a leading advocate of American culture. He is the world's first jazz artist to perform and compose across the full jazz spectrum from its New Orleans roots to bebop to modern jazz. By creating and performing an expansive range of brilliant new music for quartets to big bands, chamber music ensembles to symphony orchestras, tap dance to ballet, Wynton has expanded the vocabulary for jazz and created a vital body of work that places him among the world's finest musicians and composers.

Wynton was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. He performed traditional New Orleans music in the Fairview Baptist Church band at age 8 and at 14 he performed with the New Orleans Philharmonic, New Orleans Symphony Brass Quintet, New Orleans Community Concert Band, New Orleans Youth Orchestra, New Orleans Symphony, various jazz bands and with the popular local funk band, the Creators. At age 17, Wynton became the youngest musician ever to be admitted to Tanglewood's Berkshire Music Center. Despite his youth, he was awarded the school's prestigious Harvey Shapiro Award for outstanding brass student. Wynton moved to New York City to attend Juilliard in 1979. In 1980 Wynton seized the opportunity to join the Jazz Messengers to study under master drummer and bandleader Art Blakey. It was from Blakey that Wynton acquired his concept for bandleading and for bringing intensity to each and every performance. In the years to follow Wynton performed with Sarah Vaughan, Dizzy Gillespie, Sweets Edison, Clark Terry, Sonny Rollins, Ron Carter, Herbie Hancock, Tony Williams and countless other jazz legends. Wynton assembled his own band in 1981 and hit the road, performing over 120 concerts every year for 15 consecutive years.

A prolific classical musician, Wynton recorded the Haydn, Hummel and Leopold Mozart trumpet concertos by the age of 20. His debut recording received glorious reviews and won the Grammy Award® for "Best Classical Soloist with an Orchestra." Marsalis went on to record 10 additional classical records, all to critical acclaim. Wynton performed with leading orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Pops, The Cleveland Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and London's Royal Philharmonic.

Wynton has produced over 70 records which have sold over seven million copies worldwide, including three Gold Records. Marsalis' rich and expansive body of music places him among the world's most significant composers. He has commissioned pieces for several dance companies,

Sixth performance of the 2020-2021 season.



collaborated frequently with the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, and has published multiple collections of standards and orchestral arrangements.

Wynton has won nine Grammy Awards® and in 1983 became the only artist ever to win Grammy Awards® for both jazz and classical records. He repeated the distinction by winning jazz and classical Grammy Awards® again in 1984. Today Wynton is the only artist ever to win Grammy Awards® in five consecutive years (1983–1987).

Honorary degrees have been conferred upon Marsalis by over 25 of America's leading academic institutions including Columbia, Harvard, Howard, Princeton and Yale. In 2005, Marsalis received The National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the United States Government. In 1997 he became the first jazz musician ever to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music for his epic oratorio *Blood On The Fields*. During the five preceding decades the Pulitzer Prize jury refused to recognize jazz musicians and their improvisational music, reserving this distinction for classical composers. In the years following Marsalis' award, the Pulitzer Prize for Music has been awarded posthumously to Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Thelonious Monk and John Coltrane. Wynton's creativity has been celebrated throughout the world. He won the Netherlands' Edison Award and the Grand Prix Du Disque of France. In 1996, Britain's senior conservatoire, the Royal Academy of Music, granted Marsalis Honorary Membership, the Academy's highest decoration for a non-British citizen. The city of Marciac, France, erected a bronze statue in his honor. The French Ministry of Culture appointed Wynton the rank of Knight in the Order of Arts and Literature and in 2009 Wynton received France's highest distinction, the insignia Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, an honor that was first awarded by Napoleon Bonaparte. Wynton's radio and television series were awarded the most prestigious distinction in broadcast journalism, the George Foster Peabody Award.

In 1987 Wynton Marsalis co-founded and became Artistic Director for Jazz at Lincoln Center and Music Director for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. In July 1996, due to its significant success, Jazz at Lincoln Center was installed as new constituent of Lincoln Center, equal in stature with 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. In October 2004, with the assistance of a dedicated Board and staff, Marsalis opened Frederick P. Rose Hall, the world's first institution for jazz. Under Wynton's leadership, Jazz at Lincoln Center has developed an international agenda presenting rich and diverse programming that includes concerts, debates, film forums, dances, television and radio broadcasts, and educational activities.

Marsalis has devoted his life to uplifting populations worldwide with the egalitarian spirit of jazz. Immediately following Hurricane Katrina, Wynton organized the Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Concert and raised over \$3 million for musicians and cultural organizations impacted by the hurricane and worked with the Bring Back New Orleans Cultural Commission where he was instrumental in shaping a master plan that would revitalize the city's cultural base. Wynton Marsalis has selflessly donated his time and talent to non-profit organizations throughout the country. wyntonmarsalis.org.