

***An American Jazz Icon Returns to VPAC!***

**JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA  
With Wynton Marsalis**

**Special appearance by CSUN's Jazz "A" Band**

**Saturday, October 8 at 8:00pm**



(Los Angeles, CA) August 30, 2016 - Wynton Marsalis, the acclaimed performer, composer, educator, bandleader, and nine-time Grammy winner, stretches across all genres to create a body of work that places him among the world's most influential and important artists. Valley Performing Arts Center welcomes his return with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO) on Friday, October 8 at 8:00pm. This performance will also feature a special appearance by the CSUN Jazz "A" Band, recognized as one of the finest college jazz bands in the nation. The evening will also include a pre-performance Arts Education Gala Dinner honoring Music Center Education Division Founder Joan Boyett and benefiting VPAC's Education programs.

Wynton Marsalis, who said, "Jazz is not merely music. Jazz is America – relationships, communication, and negotiations," is an international acclaimed musician, composer, bandleader, educator and a leading advocate of American culture. He is the world's first artist to perform and compose across the full jazz spectrum from its New Orleans roots to bebop to modern jazz.

"When you think about jazz in America, there is no more important contemporary figure than Wynton Marsalis," said Thor Steingraber, VPAC's Executive Director. "His name is not only synonymous with jazz but also with arts education. His passion for his art is equal for his passion for arts education and I am delighted our 2016 Arts Education Benefit Gala is part of this evening. The audience will certainly be thrilled by the incomparable jazz artistry put forth by this legendary ensemble and the members of the CSUN Jazz 'A' Band will have the experience of performing with a stage of jazz luminaries."

**About Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**

Comprised of 15 of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players, the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra has been Jazz at Lincoln Center's resident orchestra since 1988. From historic compositions, many of which are rare, to Jazz at Lincoln Center-commissioned works, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra has a vast repertoire. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra performs compositions and arrangements by such jazz greats as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, John Coltrane, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonius Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Billy Strayhorn, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, Sy Oliver, Oliver Nelson, and many others.

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. Always swinging, Marsalis blows his trumpet with a clear tone and a unique, virtuosic style derived from an encyclopedic range of trumpet techniques.

## **VPAC's 2016 Arts Education Benefit Gala**

This performance is part of Valley Performing Art Center's Gala, which aims to raise money for arts education programs. VPAC is committed to helping students tap into their own creative potential to dream, wonder and innovate. Their arts education programs are dedicated to providing K-12 students with quality performing arts experiences. VPAC has hosted thousands of students in the Great Hall, many of whom are seeing a professional production for the first time and has trained hundreds of educators to use the arts more effectively across the curriculum. VPAC arts education stands as a proud partner to schools and families in the San Fernando Valley.

For more information on the 2016 Arts Education Benefit Gala, please go [here](#).

## **About Wynton Marsalis**

As a recording artist, Marsalis has produced over 80 records, which have sold over seven million copies worldwide. As a composer, Marsalis' work ranges from string quartet compositions to extended form compositions, from jazz and blues to the American popular song. His jazz oratorio, *Blood on the Fields* won the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for Music. He is also embraced by the dance community and has created new music for Garth Fagan, Peter Martins at The New York City Ballet, Twyla Tharp with American Ballet Theatre, Judith Jamison at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and Savion Glover (who appeared at Valley Performing Arts Center last April).

PBS's *Marsalis on Music* and NPR's 26-week series, *Marsalis' Making the Music* were both huge milestones for jazz education and the exposure of jazz music to American culture. Wynton's radio and television series were awarded the most prestigious distinction in broadcast journalism, the George Foster Peabody Award. In addition, Marsalis has written six books, from poetry celebrating jazz greats to a children's adventure story.

Marsalis has a total of nine Grammy Awards. He is the only artist to win Grammy Awards for jazz and classical, as well as the only artist to win Grammy awards in five consecutive years (1983-1987). He has received honorary degrees from over 25 of America's leading academic institutions, including Columbia, Harvard, Howard, Princeton and Yale.

## **About Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra**

To date, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra has released 13 recordings: *Vitoria Suite* (2010), *Portrait in Seven Shades* (2010), *Don't be afraid...the music of Charles Mingus* (2005), *A Love Supreme* (2005) released on Palmetto records and the following internationally distributed by Columbia and Sony Classical: *All Rise* (2002), *Big Train* (1999), *Sweet Releases & Ghost Story* (1999), *Live in Swing City* (1999), *Jump Start and Jazz* (1997), *Blood on the Fields* (1997), *They Came to Swing* (1994), *The Fire of the Fundamentals* (1993), and *Portraits by Ellington* (1992), and one commercially distributed by major sponsor Brooks Brothers, *Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra Plays the Music of Duke Ellington* (2004).

Since its inception, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra has performed collaborations with many of the world's leading symphony orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Russian National Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and London Symphony Orchestras, the Orchestra Esperimentale in São Paulo, Brazil and others. From Vienne, France, to São Paulo, Brazil, education and performances residencies all over the world also have featured the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra regularly premieres works commissioned from a variety of composers, including its own members, Benny Carter, Joe Henderson, Benny Golson, Jimmy Heath, Wayne Shorter, Sam Rivers, Joe Lovano, Chico O'Farrill, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Maria Schneider, Freddie Hubbard, Charles McPherson, Marcus Roberts, Geri Allen, Eric Reed, Wallace Roney, and Christian McBride.

In 2014, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra banded with NPR Music and WBGO to create the next generation of jazz programming in public radio: *Jazz Night in America*. The initiative – public radio's first program

completely native to video and radio – aired on more than 100 stations nationwide.

Jazz at Lincoln Center has appeared on nine *Live from Lincoln Center* broadcasts, carried by PBS stations nationwide, with an appearance featuring the grand opening of Frederick P. Rose Hall in October 2004. Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra also appeared in Thirteen/WNET production of *Great Performances* titled “Swingin’ with Duke: Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis.”

### **About Jazz at Lincoln Center**

With the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and guest artists spanning genres and generations, Jazz at Lincoln Center produces thousands of performance, education, and broadcast events each season in his home in New York City (Frederick P. Rose Hall, “The House of Swing”) and around the world, for people of all ages. Jazz at Lincoln Center is led by Chairman Robert J. Appel, Managing and Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, and Executive Director Greg Scholl.

During its first year, Jazz at Lincoln Center produced concerts throughout New York City, including Brooklyn and Harlem. By the second year, Jazz at Lincoln Center had its own radio series on National Public Radio, began touring the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra (now known as the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra) and was recording and selling CDs. By the fourth year, the jazz program reached international audiences with performances in Hong Kong and the following year in France, Austria, Italy, Turkey, Norway, Spain, England, Germany and Finland. In July 1996, Jazz at Lincoln Center was inducted as the first new constituent of Lincoln Center since the School of American Ballet joined in 1987, laying the groundwork for the building of a performance facility designed specifically for the sound, function and feeling of jazz.

Under Marsalis’ direction, Jazz at Lincoln Center created the Frederick P. Rose Hall, the world’s first performance, education and broadcast facility devoted to jazz, in New York City. From down-home and elegant concert performances, to educational programs that bring the sound and feeling of jazz into the lives of audiences of all ages, to innovative collaborative programs with artists in diverse idioms, Jazz at Lincoln Center’s mission is to enrich people’s lives with jazz and perpetuate the democratic spirit of America’s music.

### **About the CSUN Jazz “A” Band**

The band's recordings are heard on jazz radio stations around the world and have received rave reviews. The newest recording, "CSUN Originals II - Rain Song" was released in 2008 and is the Jazz Program's second album to exclusively feature student arrangements and compositions.

The award-winning CSU Northridge Jazz "A" Band regularly performs at major music festivals including the Monterey and Reno Jazz Festivals. The band has been featured at the conferences of the California Music Educator's Association (CMEA) as well as the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) and has toured the Far East, Australia and Europe.

Guest artists with the band include Randy Brecker, Bill Perkins, Bob Florence, Alex Iles, Clay Jenkins, Vince Mendoza, Bob Sheppard, Gordon Goodwin, George Stone, Bob McChesney, Ron Stout, Peter Erskine, Dave Holland, Gary Foster, Bobby Shew, Fred Sturm and many others.

Single tickets for the concert, starting at \$43 are available now. For ticket and subscription information, visit [ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org](http://ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org) or call (818) 677-3000. Valley Performing Arts Center is located on the campus of California State University, Northridge (CSUN), 18111 Nordhoff Street Northridge, CA 91330-8448, at the corner of Nordhoff and Lindley.

### **Calendar Listing for Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**

**Venue:** Valley Performing Arts Center  
18111 Nordhoff Street  
Northridge, CA 91330

**Date:** Saturday, October 8 at 8:00pm

**Tickets:** **Price:** Starting at \$43  
**In Person:** VPAC Ticket Office, located in the VPAC Courtyard  
**By Phone:** (818) 677-3000  
**Online:** [ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org](http://ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org)

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**Photos:** Click here for photos from the 2016-17 Season:  
<http://www.valleyperformingartscenter.org/press/press-photos/>