

TEACHERS RESOURCES

Jazz with Wynton Marsalis

Contents

- Biography
- Discography
- Film and Videography
- Bibliography
- Other Resources
- Music Heard in This Program

Biography

Wynton Marsalis was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on October 18, 1961 to Ellis and Dolores Marsalis. At an early age Wynton exhibited seriousness about study and an aptitude for music. For his sixth birthday his father gave him a trumpet and at age 8 he performed traditional New Orleans music in the Fairview Baptist Church band. At age 17 Wynton became the youngest musician ever to be admitted to Tanglewood's Berkshire Music Center.

When Wynton moved to New York City to attend Juilliard in 1978 he began to pick up gigs around town, and the grapevine began to buzz. Two years later he joined the Jazz Messengers to study under master drummer and bandleader, Art Blakey. With this foundation Wynton assembled his own band and hit the road, performing over 120 concerts every year for ten consecutive years.

Not content to focus solely on his musicianship, Wynton devoted equal time to developing his compositional skills. Marsalis collaborated with the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society in 1995 to compose the string quartet, AT THE OCTOROON BALLS, and again in 1998 to create a response to Stravinsky's A Soldier's Tale with his composition, A FIDDLER'S TALE. At the dawn of the new millennium Wynton presented his most ambitious work to date, ALL RISE, an epic composition for big band, gospel choir, and symphony orchestra. Wynton's love of the music of Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and others drove him to pursue a career in classical music as well. He recorded the Haydn and Hummel trumpet concertos at the age of twenty. Through his recordings, workshops and performances Wynton inspired many youngsters to pursue classical music as well. In 1987 Wynton Marsalis co-founded a jazz program at Lincoln Center. In December of 1995 the Lincoln Center Board rewarded the Jazz Department's significant success by voting it a full constituent, equal in stature with the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, and the New York City Ballet - a historic moment for Jazz as an art form.

Wynton Marsalis has won nine of the coveted Grammy Awards, earned the distinction of being the only artist ever to win Grammy Awards for both jazz and classical records (an accomplishment he astonishingly repeated in consecutive years), and he is the only artist ever to have won Grammy Awards in five consecutive years. And in 1997 Marsalis became the first

jazz musician ever to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music for his epic oratorio BLOOD ON THE FIELDS.

The most extraordinary dimension of Wynton Marsalis, however, is not his accomplishments but his character. Wynton personally funds scholarships for students attending the Tanglewood Music Center and the Eastern Music Festival. He has selflessly donated his time and talent to non-profit organizations throughout the country to help raise money to meet the many needs within our society. It is Wynton's commitment to the improvement of life for all people as well as his outstanding contributions to the Arts that portray the best of his character and above all, the best of humanity.

For a more detailed biography, visit <http://www.wyntonmarsalis.com/>

Discography-Partial

<http://www.rollingstone.com/wyntonmarsalis>

Film and Videography-Partial

Ken Burns: Jazz A History of America's Music
PBS Home Video

The London Concert
Sony

Marsalis on Music
Sony Classical

Bibliography-Partial

Wynton Marsalis (Contemporary Biographies)
by Veronica Freeman Ellis
Ages 9-12

Wynton Marsalis: Trumpet Genius
by Leslie Gourse
Young Adult

Artists at Work
by Marilee Burton
Juvenile

Sweet Swing Blues on the Road
by Wynton Marsalis

Jazz in the Bittersweet Blues of Life
by Wynton Marsalis

To a Young Jazz Musician: Letters from the Road
by Wynton Marsalis with Selwyn Seyfu Hinds

Marsalis on Music
by Wynton Marsalis
Companion Book to the PBS Series

Wynton Marsalis: Skain's Domain: A Biography
by Leslie Gourse

Other Resources

Jazz at Lincoln Center
<http://www.jazzatlincolncenter.org>

National Curriculum Standards
Language arts:
<http://www.ncte.org/>

Social Studies:
<http://www.ncss.org/>

Music:
<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/teach/standards.cfm>

California Curriculum Standards
English Language Arts, Mathematics, History/Social Studies,
Science, Visual and Performing Arts:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/>

National Association for Music Education
National Standards for Music Education
<http://www.menc.org/publication/books/standards.htm>

Music heard in this program (partial list)

Opening and Tricks on the Trumpet:
Jelly Roll Morton – *Jungle Blues*
Played by Wynton Marsalis

Main Menu:
Duke Ellington – *Take the A Train*

Discipline & Practice:
John Coltrane – *Lazy Bird*

How a Trumpet is Made:
Benny Goodman – *King Porter Stomp*

Ragtime:
Scott Joplin – *Maple Leaf Rag*

Blues Form:
BB King – *The Thrill is Gone*

Jelly Roll Morton:
Big Lip Blues – played by Wynton Marsalis

Scott Joplin:
Felicity Rag – played by Richard Zimmerman