



Big Band Holidays
**Jazz at Lincoln Center
Orchestra with
Wynton Marsalis**

Wynton Marsalis / *Music Director, Trumpet*

Ryan Kisor / *Trumpet*

Kenny Rampton / *Trumpet*

Marcus Printup / *Trumpet*

Chris Crenshaw / *Trombone*

Vincent Gardner / *Trombone*

Elliot Mason / *Trombone*

Sherman Irby / *Alto and Soprano Saxophones, Flute, Clarinet*

Ted Nash / *Alto and Soprano Saxophones, Flute, Clarinet*

Victor Goines / *Tenor and Soprano Saxophones, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet*

Paul Nedzela / *Baritone and Soprano Saxophones, Bass Clarinet*

Camille Thurman / *Saxophones and Vocals*

Dan Nimmer / *Piano*

Carlos Henriquez / *Bass*

Willie Jones III / *Drums*

featuring

Alexis Morrast / *Vocals*

Denzal Sinclair / *Vocals*

Sunday Afternoon, December 1, 2019 at 4:00

Hill Auditorium

Ann Arbor

26th Performance of the 141st Annual Season

26th Annual Jazz Series

This afternoon's concert is presented in honor of **Dr. E. Royster Harper**, University of Michigan's Vice President for Student Life, on the occasion of her retirement.

"Dr. Harper's impact is extraordinary. As far as I'm concerned, she has set the standard for student life leaders in our nation. Throughout her career, including more than 18 years as vice president, Dr. Harper has worked tirelessly to enrich the lives of students, from their academic and career aspirations to their health and growth as individuals. She is passionate about helping all those around her reach their potential."

— Mark S. Schlissel, *President, University of Michigan*

"UMS is so very honored to dedicate this performance to Dr. Royster Harper. Even during my short time here at Michigan, it's become clear to me the enormous impact that Dr. Harper has had on the University of Michigan's students and their well-being. What's also been inspiring is her true belief and passion for the performing arts — how they help connect, enrich, and nurture our students to become creative scholars and engaged citizens, fully embracing the ambiguities, challenges, and opportunities of the world around them."

— Matthew VanBesien, *President, UMS*

This afternoon's performance is supported by Michigan Medicine, Conlin Travel, Old National Bank, and Anthony Reffells.

This afternoon's performance is also funded in part by the JazzNet Endowment Fund.

Media partnership provided by WEMU 89.1 FM, WRCJ 90.9 FM, Michigan Radio 91.7 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, and Ann Arbor's 107one.

The Steinway piano used in this afternoon's performance is made possible by the William and Mary Palmer Endowment Fund.

Special thanks to Jazzistry for their participation in events surrounding this afternoon's performance.

Brooks Brothers is the official clothier of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis.

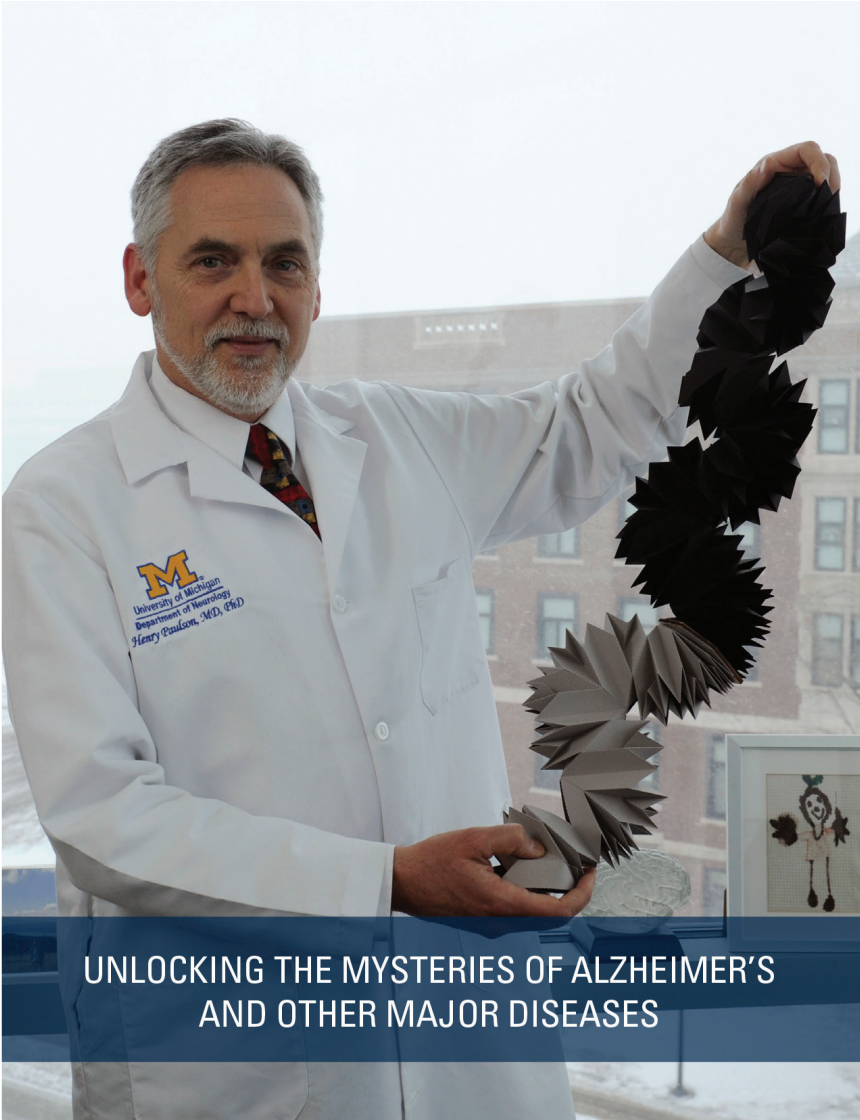
In consideration of the artists and the audience, please refrain from the use of electronic devices during the performance.

The photography, sound recording, or videotaping of this performance is prohibited.

PROGRAM

Big Band Holidays

This afternoon's program will be announced by the artists from the stage and is performed without intermission.



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ARTISTS

Wynton Marsalis (*trumpet*) is the managing and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center and a world-renowned trumpeter and composer. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1961, Mr. Marsalis began his classical training on trumpet at age 12, entered The Juilliard School at age 17, and then joined Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. He made his recording debut as a leader in 1982, and has since recorded more than 70 jazz and classical recordings, which have won him nine Grammy Awards. In 1983 he became the first and only artist to win both classical and jazz Grammys in the same year and repeated this feat in 1984. Mr. Marsalis is also an internationally respected teacher and spokesman for music education, and has received honorary doctorates from dozens of US universities and colleges. He has written six books; his most recent are *Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!*, illustrated by Paul Rogers and published by Candlewick Press in 2012, and *Moving to Higher Ground: How Jazz Can Change Your Life* with Geoffrey C. Ward, published by Random House in 2008. In 1997 Mr. Marsalis became the first jazz artist to be awarded the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in music for his oratorio *Blood on the Fields*, which was commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center. In 2001 he was appointed Messenger of Peace by Mr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, and he has also been designated cultural ambassador to the United States of America by the US State Department through their CultureConnect program. Mr. Marsalis was instrumental in the *Higher Ground Hurricane Relief* concert, produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center. The event raised more than \$3 million for the Higher Ground Relief Fund to benefit the musicians, music industry-related enterprises, and other

individuals and entities from the areas in Greater New Orleans who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Marsalis helped lead the effort to construct Jazz at Lincoln Center's home — Frederick P. Rose Hall — the first education, performance, and broadcast facility devoted to jazz, which opened in October 2004.

The **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** with Wynton Marsalis (JLCO) comprises 15 of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players today. Led by Wynton Marsalis, Jazz at Lincoln Center managing and artistic director, this remarkably versatile orchestra performs a vast repertoire ranging from original compositions and Jazz at Lincoln Center-commissioned works to rare historic compositions and masterworks by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, and many others. The JLCO has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra since 1988, performing and leading educational events in New York, across the US, and around the globe. Alongside symphony orchestras, ballet troupes, local students, and an ever-expanding roster of guest artists, the JLCO has toured over 300 cities across six continents. Guest conductors have included Benny Carter, John Lewis, Jimmy Heath, Chico O'Farrill, Ray Santos, Paquito D'Rivera, Jon Faddis, Robert Sadin, David Berger, Gerald Wilson, and Loren Schoenberg. The JLCO was voted "Best Big Band" in the annual *DownBeat* Readers' Poll from 2013–16.

In 2015, Jazz at Lincoln Center announced the launch of Blue Engine Records, a new platform to make its archive of recorded concerts available to jazz audiences everywhere. The first

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release from Blue Engine Records, *Live in Cuba*, was recorded on a historic 2010 trip to Havana by JLCO and was released in October 2015. *Big Band Holidays* was released in December 2015, *The Abyssinian Mass* came out in March 2016, *The Music of John Lewis* came out in March 2017, and the JLCO's *Handful of Keys* came out in September 2017. Blue Engine's *United We Swing: Best of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Galas* features the Wynton Marsalis Septet and an array of special guests, with all proceeds going toward Jazz at Lincoln Center's education initiatives. Recent album releases include 2018's *Una Noché con Ruben Blades*, 2019's *Betty Carter's The Music Never Stops*, 2019's *Bolden (Official Soundtrack)*, composed and performed by Wynton Marsalis. Wynton Marsalis' *Swing Symphony*, performed by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Robertson, was released in July 2019. To date, 14 other recordings featuring the JLCO have been released and internationally distributed: *Vitoria Suite* (2010); *Portrait in Seven Shades* (2010); *Congo Square* (2007); *Don't Be Afraid...The Music of Charles Mingus* (2005); *A Love Supreme* (2005); *All Rise* (2002); *Big Train* (1999); *Sweet Release & 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). Visit jazz.org for more information.

Jazz at Lincoln Center is dedicated to inspiring and growing audiences for jazz. With the world-renowned Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and a comprehensive array of guest artists, Jazz at Lincoln

Center advances a unique vision for the continued development of the art of jazz by producing a year-round schedule of performance, education, and broadcast events for audiences of all ages. These productions include concerts, national and international tours, residencies, weekly national radio programs, television broadcasts, recordings, publications, an annual high school jazz band competition and festival, a band director academy, jazz appreciation curricula for students, music publishing, children's concerts and classes, lectures, adult education courses, student and educator workshops, a record label, and interactive websites. Under the leadership of managing and artistic director Wynton Marsalis, chairman Robert J. Appel, and executive director Greg Scholl, Jazz at Lincoln Center produces thousands of events each season in its home in New York City, Frederick P. Rose Hall, and around the world. For more information, visit jazz.org.

Alexis Jessica Morrast (*vocals*), an 18-year-old singer/songwriter phenomenon, began singing at the age of three. She is a native of Newark and now resides in Plainfield, New Jersey. Ms. Morrast has graced iconic bandstands from the Kennedy Center to Lincoln Center, traveling from Africa to Austria; working with greats like jazz legend Barry Harris, Greg Pillinganes, Christian McBride, Steve Jordan, Lisa Fischer, Michael Feinstein, and Tony Award-winner Christine Ebersole. Ms. Morrast has been featured and interviewed in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Forbes*, and on the front pages of both local and international newspapers. *Hot House Jazz Guide* said

Photo (next spread): Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra; photographer: Frank Stewart.





“Seldom do listeners have the opportunity to hear a young artist who contains the depth of Alexis Morrast. The singer and composer captivates audiences with her warmth. Often dealing in sophisticated restraint, Alexis’s innate command of phrasing reflects what many musicians spend their whole lives trying to master. Every note matters, and every lyric resonates.” She is not only a two-time Amateur Night winner at The Apollo, but she also won *Showtime at the Apollo*, *Hot House* magazine’s 2017 “Best Up and Coming Young Artist” Award, performed in Times Square, and most recently at the WBGO 2019 Champions of Jazz Gala honoring Dee Dee Bridgewater.

Denzal Sinclair (*vocals*) is one of Canada’s most popular jazz vocalists and is ranked among the finest jazz singers of his generation. A graduate of McGill University’s jazz performance program, he possesses that rare ability to instantly achieve a profound emotional interaction with his audience. Mr. Sinclair is a Juno Award nominee, a recipient of the 2004 National Jazz Award for “Best Album,” four-time consecutive recipient of *Jazz Report Magazine* Award for Male Jazz Vocalist, and 2007 Choc Jazzman Award (France). His admirers include Grammy Award-winning artists Diana Krall, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Dianne Reeves, Michael Feinstein, and Michael Bublé, as well as growing legions of jazz fans in his native Canada and abroad. He has graced the stages of concert halls and festivals around the world and has appeared on TV shows including Canada’s *Bravo!TV*, *Canada AM*, *Nashville Now*, and Ireland’s *The Late Late Show*. As a former member of soul artist Jamie Lidell’s band, he has appeared on *Late*

Night with Conan O’ Brien, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, and Manu Katché’s show *One Shot Not* (France). Equally at home in the theater, film, and television arenas, Mr. Sinclair has delighted audiences with his critically acclaimed performance in *Unforgettable*, based on the life and music of Nat “King” Cole; *Tapestry: The Music of Carole King*; and William Saroyan’s *The Time of Your Life*. His TV and film credits include the new *Battlestar Galactica* and *Being Julia*.

UMS ARCHIVES

This afternoon's concert marks the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra's** 20th UMS appearance since the Orchestra's UMS debut in February 1994. **Wynton Marsalis** makes his 22nd appearance under UMS auspices, both with the Orchestra and in other ensemble configurations. Mr. Marsalis made his UMS debut in January 1996 with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra Octet. Mr. Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra most recently appeared under UMS auspices in November 2018 in Hill Auditorium. UMS welcomes **Alexis Morrast** and **Denzal Sinclaire** as they make their UMS debuts today.

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TODAY'S PERFORMANCE**

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MAY WE ALSO RECOMMEND...

- 2/6 Cécile McLorin Salvant and Aaron Diehl
2/14 Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán
3/13 Tarek Yamani Trio

Tickets available at www.ums.org.

ON THE EDUCATION HORIZON...

- 12/7 Handel's Messiah Pre-Performance Talk:
Fortunate the Eyes That See and the Ears That Hear
(Rackham Assembly Hall, 4th Floor, 915 E. Washington Street, 6:00 pm)
1/16 No Safety Net Keynote: In Conversation with Oskar Eustis
(Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty Street, 5:10 pm)

Educational events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.