



An Evening With
BRANFORD MARSALIS

Saxophones **Branford Marsalis**

Piano **Joey Calderazzo**

Bass **Eric Revis**

Drums **Justin Faulkner**

PROGRAM

There will be no intermission.



Thursday, February 5 at 7:30 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Brankford Marsalis has stayed the course. From his early acclaim as a saxophonist bringing new energy and new audiences to the jazz art, he has refined and expanded his talents and his horizons as a musician, composer, bandleader and educator—a 21st Century mainstay of artistic excellence.

Growing up in the rich environment of New Orleans as the oldest son of pianist and educator Ellis Marsalis, he was drawn to music along with siblings Wynton, Delfeayo and Jason. His first instrument, the clarinet, gave way to the alto and then the tenor and soprano saxophones when he began working in local bands as a teenager. A growing fascination with jazz as he entered college gave him the basic tools to obtain his first major jobs with trumpet legend Clark Terry and alongside Wynton in Art Blakey's legendary Jazz Messengers. When the brothers left to form the Wynton Marsalis Quintet, the world of uncompromising acoustic jazz was invigorated. Brankford Marsalis formed his own quartet in 1986 and, with a few minor interruptions in the early years, has sustained the unit as his primary means of expression. Known for the telepathic communication among its uncommonly consistent personnel, its deep book of original music replete with expressive melodies and provocative forms, and an unrivaled spirit in both live and recorded performances, the Brankford Marsalis Quartet has long been recognized as the standard to which other ensembles of its kind must be measured. Its most recent recording, *Four MFs Playin' Tunes*, was named Best Instrumental Jazz Album in 2012 by iTunes.

Marsalis has not confined his music to the quartet context. In addition to guest turns with a legion of giants including Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Herbie Hancock and Sonny Rollins, he has excelled in duets with several major pianists, including his boyhood friend Harry Connick, Jr. and the longtime pianist in his quartet, Joey Calderazzo. Marsalis' first solo concert at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral is documented on his latest recording, *In My Solitude*. He formed the Marsalis Music label in 2002, and under his direction, it has documented his own music as well as talented new stars such as Miguel Zenon and neglected older masters including one of Marsalis' teachers, the late Alvin Batiste. Marsalis has also shared his knowledge as an educator, forming extended teaching relationships at Michigan State, San Francisco State and North Carolina Central Universities and conducting workshops at sites throughout the United States and the world.

Classical music inhabits a growing portion of Marsalis' musical universe. With a repertoire including works by Copland, Debussy, Glazunov, Ibert, Mahler, Milhaud, Rorem, Vaughn Williams, Villa-Lobos and Sally Beamish (who reconceived a work in progress, "Under the Wing of the Rock," to feature his saxophone after hearing him perform one of her earlier pieces), Marsalis is frequently heard with leading symphony orchestras including those in Chicago, Detroit, Dusseldorf and North Carolina as well as the New York Philharmonic. He also served as Creative Director for the Cincinnati Symphony's Ascent series in 2012-13.


Broadway has also welcomed Marsalis' contributions. His initial effort, original music for a revival of August Wilson's *Fences*, garnered a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music in a Play and a Tony® nomination for Best Original Score Written for the Theater. He also provided music for *The Mountaintop*, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Angela Bassett, and served as musical curator for the 2014 revival of *A Raisin in the Sun*. His screen credits include the original music for *Mo' Better Blues* and acting roles in *School Daze* and *Throw Momma from the Train*.

As for other public stages, Marsalis spent a period touring with Sting, collaborated with the Grateful Dead and Bruce Hornsby, served as Musical Director of *The Tonight Show Starring Jay Leno* and hosted National Public Radio's widely syndicated *Jazz Set*. The range and quality of these diverse activities established him as a familiar presence beyond the worlds of jazz and classical music, while his efforts to help heal and rebuild New Orleans in the


wake of Hurricane Katrina mark him as an artist with an uncommonly effective social vision. Together with Harry Connick, Jr. and New Orleans Habitat for Humanity, Marsalis conceived and helped to realize The Musicians Village, a community in the Upper Ninth Ward that provides homes to the displaced families of musicians and other local residents. At the heart of The Musicians Village stands the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, a community center dedicated to preserving the rich New Orleans musical legacy containing state-of-the-art spaces for performance, instruction and recording.

Some might gauge Branford Marsalis’ success by his numerous awards, including three Grammy® Awards and (together with his father and brothers) his citation as a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts. To Marsalis, however, these are only way stations along what continues to be one of the most fascinating and rewarding journeys in the world of music.


UNIVERSITY CITY *is for*



FRIENDS






FOOD
LOVERS



CULTURE SEEKERS

www.universitycity.org

 universitycity  ucdphl








University City District

WHERE
YOU
GO TO
KNOW.

WHYY.org for more information

WHYY





WHERE YOU GO TO KNOW. 