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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 13, 2018
[Press Room](#)



Images of Wynton Marsalis (left), Jon Batiste (right), and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (not pictured) are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
SEASON-OPENING CONCERT AND GALA CELEBRATION FEATURING THE
JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA
WITH WYNTON MARSALIS AND SPECIAL GUEST JON BATISTE**

**CONCERT CELEBRATES MUSIC OF DUKE ELLINGTON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018
HEARST GREEK THEATRE**

**GALA CELEBRATION SUPPORTS CAL PERFORMANCES'
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

**A RANGE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS
ARE PLANNED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE**

Berkeley, August 13, 2018 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley opens its 2018–19 season on Sunday, September 23 with a performance at the Hearst Greek Theatre by the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** with **Wynton Marsalis** and special guest **Jon Batiste**, pianist and musical

director of the house band for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. Marsalis, a nine-time Grammy winner and Pulitzer Prize recipient, leads his orchestra in a tribute to the music of Duke Ellington, whose compositions have long been a mainstay of the ensemble's repertoire. A separate *Gala at the Greek* celebration accompanies the concert and directly supports Cal Performances' education and community programs, vital activities that build future audiences for the arts. The concert also launches Cal Performances' 2018–19 season's jazz programming, which includes ***An Evening with Pat Metheny, with Antonio Sánchez, Linda May Han Oh, and Gwilym Simcock*** (Oct. 25), **Charles Lloyd & The Marvels** with special guest **Lucinda Williams** and featuring **Greg Leisz, Reuben Rogers, and Eric Harland** (Dec. 6); and the ***Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour - 60th Anniversary Celebration***, starring **Cécile McLorin Salvant** and music director **Christian Sands** (Apr. 3). The *Gala at the Greek* includes a pre-concert cocktail reception at 3:30pm; the concert which begins at 5:30pm; and a post-concert dinner with the musicians of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Wynton Marsalis, the internationally acclaimed musician, composer, bandleader, educator, and ambassador of American culture was the first jazz artist to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music. He is the son of jazz pianist Ellis Marsalis Jr., and brother of saxophonist Branford, trombonist Delfeayo, and drummer Jason Marsalis. Wynton Marsalis has created and performs an expansive range of music including works for quartets, big bands, chamber music ensembles, symphony orchestras, tap dancers, and ballet companies, expanding the vocabulary for jazz and classical music with a rich body of work that places him among the world's most accomplished musicians and composers. He performs on trumpet with a depth of emotion and a virtuosic style derived from an encyclopedic range of techniques. Marsalis is known for promoting individual creativity through improvisation and collective cooperation through swing.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, led by Marsalis, is made up of 15 of the finest soloists, ensemble players, and arrangers in jazz today. The musicians performing in the orchestra at the Greek Theatre are: Ryan Kisor, Kenny Rampton, and Marcus Printup, on trumpet; Vincent Gardner, Chris Crenshaw, and Elliot Mason on trombone; Sherman Irby, Ted Nash, Victor Goines, Greg Tardy, and Paul Nedzela on woodwinds; Dan Nimmer on piano; Carlos Henriquez on bass; and Charles Goold on drums.

Charismatic pianist, bandleader, and jazz educator Jon Batiste, well known as the musical director of the house band for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, is also active as artistic director at large of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. Batiste also tours internationally, teaching master classes and performing with his band, Stay Human. Born into a long lineage of Louisiana musicians, Batiste earned both undergraduate and master's degrees in piano from the Juilliard School, and is known for curating unique "social music" experiences in cities all over the world, with his flash mob-style impromptu street performances. He was named in *Forbes* magazine's "30 Under 30" list of breakout talents and change agents in 2016, has played himself on the HBO series *Treme*, and most recently also played himself in Spike Lee's film, *Red Hook Summer*. On September 28 *Hollywood Africans*, a new solo album by Batiste recorded in New Orleans and produced by T-Bone Burnett, will be released. The first single, "Don't Stop" is already available.

Following the success of the educational activities that were part of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra's Cal Performances residency in the 2016–17 season, a series of public programs and educational events are planned on the day of the Greek Theatre concert, with participants including Bay Area bassist and composer **Marcus Shelby**; KCSM Jazz 91 radio music director and host **Jesse "Chuy" Varela**; and Jazz 91's program director and host of "Morning Cup of Jazz" **Alisa Clancy**.

From 10am to 3:30pm in Zellerbach Hall *Jazz Explorations*, a Seminario for Bay Area middle-school and high-school music students and UC Berkeley Jazz Ensemble musicians, takes place. **Nicholas Kanozik** and **Dave Ellis** of Oakland School for the Arts' Instrumental Music and Jazz programs coordinated this Seminario, a day of workshops, mentoring, sharing, and side-by-side performances focusing on student mentors guiding younger musicians. Inspired by Venezuela's acclaimed El Sistema music education program, *Jazz Explorations* will teach students how to swing and will be the third daylong Seminario organized and hosted by Cal Performances. All *Jazz Explorations* Seminario students and their guests will receive complimentary tickets to the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra's performance that evening. Sponsors Maris and Ivan Meyerson have funded the cost of tickets to ensure that all students are able to attend the performance. (Participation in this event is by invitation only.)

Also on Sunday, September 23, at 2pm in Hertz Hall, KCSM Jazz 91's Alisa Clancy will lead "So You Think Jazz Isn't For You?" This free public forum will be illustrated by music performed by senior members of the UC Jazz Ensemble, who will bring Duke Ellington's music to life in various

jazz styles. UC Berkeley students who receive complimentary tickets from Cal Performances to the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra's concert are encouraged to attend. At a 3pm free public forum, also in Hertz Hall, bassist Marcus Shelby and Jazz 91 music director and host Jesse "Chuy" Varela will present a program about Duke Ellington's history as a performer and mentor in the Bay Area and the importance of his music in the 21st century.

Ticket Information

Tickets for the *Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and special guest Jon Batiste* on Sunday September 23 at 5:30pm in the Hearst Greek Theatre range from \$50—150 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, September 23, 5:30pm

Hearst Greek Theatre
2001 Gayley Road
UC Berkeley campus

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and special guest Jon Batiste *Celebrating Duke Ellington*

Program: Cal Performances presents international jazz ambassador, nine-time Grammy winner, and Pulitzer Prize recipient Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra at the Hearst Greek Theatre. The band is joined by Jon Batiste, the charismatic pianist and music director of the house band for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, for a concert celebrating the music of Duke Ellington, including early Cotton Club "jump" classics, big band ballads, and selections from Ellington's lushly orchestrated suites.

Concert Tickets: \$50—150 (prices subject to change)

Sunday, September 23, 3:30pm

Various Locations

Special Event: Gala at the Greek

3:30pm Cocktail Reception, University Club, California Memorial Stadium
5:30pm Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Performance, Greek Theatre
7pm Dinner with the Artists, Backstage at the Greek Theatre

The *Gala at the Greek* raises funds in support of Cal Performances' education and community Programs, vital activities that build future audiences for the arts. Tickets for the *Gala at the Greek* include a cocktail reception, dinner with the artists, premium concert seating, and other benefits. For more information or to reserve seats, visit calperformances.org/gala or contact Special Events Manager Amanda Wu at (510) 642-7837 or awu@calperformances.org.

Tickets: \$500 for cocktail reception tickets; \$1500—\$2500 for Gala dinner tickets

Residency Activities

Seminario 2018: *Jazz Explorations*

Sunday, September 23, 10am – 3:30pm, Zellerbach Hall

Young musicians gather to inspire each other, share, and collaborate through jazz while celebrating the music of Duke Ellington. Based on a model created by the acclaimed international El Sistema music education program, Bay Area middle-school and high-school music students will participate in a day of workshops, mentoring, sharing, and side-by-side performances. By invitation only. Contact eduprograms@calperformances.org for more information.

Public Forum: *So You Think Jazz Isn't For You?*

Sunday, September 23, 2pm, Hertz Hall

A conversation for jazz-curious students and community members, led by KCSM Jazz 91's Alisa Clancy and members of the UC Jazz Ensemble. Free and open to the public.

Public Forum: *Duke Ellington for the New Millenium*

Sunday, September 23, 3pm, Hertz Hall

Bay Area bassist and composer Marcus Shelby and KCSM Jazz 91 music director and radio host Jesse "Chuy" Varela present a public program about Duke Ellington's history as a performer and mentor in the Bay Area. Free and open to the public.

Residency and education activities generously underwritten by Maris & Ivan Meyerson