Tuesday, September 22, 2009, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO), composed of 15 of today’s finest jazz soloists and ensemble players, has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra for over 13 years. Featured in all aspects of Jazz at Lincoln Center’s programming, the remarkably versatile JLCO performs and leads educational events in New York, across the United States and around the world; in concert halls, dance venues, jazz clubs, public parks, river boats and churches; and with symphony orchestras, ballet troupes, local students and an ever-expanding roster of guest artists. Education is a major part of Jazz at Lincoln Center’s mission, and its educational activities are coordinated with concert and JLCO tour programming.

These programs, many of which feature JLCO members, include the celebrated Jazz for Young People℠ family concert series, the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival, the Jazz for Young People℠ Curriculum, educational residencies, workshops and concerts for students and adults worldwide. Jazz at Lincoln Center educational programs reach over 100,000 students, teachers and general audience members. The Jazz at Lincoln Center weekly radio series, Jazz at Lincoln Center Radio, is distributed by the WFMT Radio Network. Winner of a 1997 Peabody Award, Jazz at Lincoln Center Radio is produced in conjunction with Murray Street Enterprises, New York.

Under Music Director Wynton Marsalis, the JLCO spends over a third of the year on tour. The big band performs a vast repertoire, from rare historic compositions to Jazz at Lincoln Center-commissioned works, including compositions and arrangements by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Billy Strayhorn, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, Sy Oliver, Oliver Nelson and many others. 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. Jazz at Lincoln Center also regularly premieres works commissioned from a variety of composers, including Benny Carter, Joe Henderson, Benny Golson, Jimmy Heath, Wayne Shorter, Sam Rivers, Joe Lovano, Chico O’Farrill, Freddie Hubbard, Charles McPherson, Marcus Roberts, Geri Allen, Eric Reed, Wallace Roney and Christian McBride, as well as from current and former JLCO members Wynton Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Ted Nash and Ron Westray. Over the last few years, the JLCO has performed collaborations with many of the world’s leading symphony orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Russian National Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Boston, Chicago, and London symphonies, and the Orchestra Experimentale in São Paulo, Brazil. In 2006, the JLCO collaborated with Ghanaian drum collective Odadaa!, led by Yacub Addy, to perform Congo Square, a composition Mr. Marsalis and Mr. Addy co-wrote and dedicated to Mr. Marsalis’s native New Orleans.

The JLCO has also been featured in several education and performance residencies in the last few years, including those in Vienne, Perugia, Prague, London, Lucerne, Berlin, São Paulo and Yokohama. Television broadcasts of Jazz at Lincoln Center programs have helped broaden the awareness of its unique efforts in the music. Concerts by the JLCO have aired in the United States, England, France, Spain, Germany, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Norway, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, China, Japan, Korea and the Philippines. Jazz at Lincoln Center has appeared on several XM Satellite Radio live broadcasts and seven Live from Lincoln Center broadcasts, carried by PBS stations nationwide; most recently on October 18, 2004, during the grand opening of Jazz at Lincoln Center’s new home, Frederick P. Rose Hall, and on September 17, 2005, during Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Higher Ground Benefit Concert. The benefit concert raised funds for the Higher Ground Relief Fund that was established by Jazz at Lincoln Center and administered through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to benefit the musicians, music industry related enterprises and other individuals and entities from the areas in Greater New Orleans who were impacted by Hurricane Katrina and to provide other general hurricane relief. The band is also featured in the Higher Ground Benefit Concert CD that was released on Blue Note Records following the concert. The JLCO was featured in a Thirteen/WNET production of Great Performances entitled Swingin’ with a few years, the JLCO has performed collaborations with many of the world’s leading symphony orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Russian National Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Boston, Chicago, and London symphonies, and the Orchestra Experimentale in São Paulo, Brazil. In 2006, the JLCO collaborated with Ghanaian drum collective Odadaa!, led by Yacub Addy, to perform Congo Square, a composition Mr. Marsalis and Mr. Addy co-wrote and dedicated to Mr. Marsalis’s native New Orleans.

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Key Notes
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
Tuesday, September 22, 2009, 5–6:15 pm, Zellerbach Hall Lobby Mezzanine

Chuy Varela and Clifford Brown Jr. of KSCM-FM discuss the big-band sound of the 21st century as exemplified by Wynton Marsalis and the JLCO. Artists will participate in the discussion, schedule permitting.
Wynton Marsalis (trumpet), Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1961. Mr. Marsalis began his classical training on trumpet at age 12 and soon began playing in local bands of diverse genres. He entered The Juilliard School at age 17 and joined Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. Mr. Marsalis has recorded more than 30 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’s rich body of compositions includes Sweet Release, Jazz: Six Syncopated Movements, Jump Start, Citi Movement/Griot New York, At the OctoRon Ball, In This House, On This Morning and Big Train. 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. He has recorded many albums, his most recent being He and She (2009) on Blue Note Records. Following Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Marsalis co-wrote a composition entitled Congo Square with Ghanaian drummer Yacub Addy and dedicated the piece to Mr. Marsalis’s native New Orleans. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, in collaboration with Yacub Addy’s group Odadaa, premiered Congo Square on April 23, 2006 in New Orleans then performed the piece on tour from Florida to New York. Mr. Marsalis is also an internationally respected teacher and spokesman for music education, and has received honorary doctorates from dozens of universities and colleges throughout the United States. He conducts educational programs for students of all ages and hosts the popular Jazz for Young People concerts produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center. He has also written four books, most recently Jazz ABZ, in collaboration with Phil Schapp and illustrated by poster artist Paul Rogers. In 2001, Mr. Marsalis was appointed Messenger of Peace by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and has also been designated cultural ambassador to the United States of America by the U.S. State Department through their CultureConnect program. Mr. Marsalis serves on Lieutenant Governor Landrieu’s National Advisory Board for Culture, Recreation and Tourism, a national advisory board created to rebuild Louisiana’s tourism and cultural economies. He has also been named to the Brin New Orleans Back Commission, New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin’s initiative to help rebuild New Orleans culturally, socially, economically, and uniquely for every citizen. He helped lead the effort to construct Jazz at Lincoln Center’s new home—Frederick P. Rose Hall—the first education, performance and broadcast facility devoted to jazz, which opened in October 2004.

Walter Blanding (tenor and soprano saxophones, clarinet) was born on August 14, 1971, in Cleveland, Ohio, to a musical family and began playing the saxophone at age six. In 1981, Mr. Blanding moved with his family to New York City, and by age 16, he was performing regularly with his parents at the Village Gate. Mr. Blanding attended LaGuardia High School for Music & Art and the Performing Arts and continued his studies at the New School for Social Research. Mr. Blanding lived in Israel for four years, where he had a major impact on the music scene, inviting great artists such as Louis Hayes, Eric Reed and others to perform. He also taught in several Israeli schools and toured the country with his ensemble. During this period, Newsweek described him as “Jazz’s Ambassador to Israel.” His first recording, Tough Young Tenors, was acclaimed as one of the best jazz albums of 1991. Since then, he has performed or recorded with many artists, including Cab Calloway, the Wynton Marsalis Septet, Marcus Roberts, Illinois Jacquet, Eric Reed, Roy Hargrove and others. His latest release, The Olive Tree, features fellow members of the JLCO.

Christopher Crenshaw (trombone) was born on December 20, 1982. He is originally from Thomson, Georgia, and currently resides in Saint Albans, New York. Ever since he was born, music has been his driving force. His mother Jeanette says that he did not speak a word until his sister Christian was born. He grew up with music all around him and of various influences and started playing piano on his own at age three. Teachers and students noticed his gift throughout his schooling. His first gig was as a keyboardist in his father’s gospel group called the Echects of Joy. Mr. Crenshaw picked up the trombone at 11 years old and hasn’t let go of it since. Receiving top honors along the way, he graduated from Thomson High School in 2001 and from Valdosta State University with a bachelor’s degree in Jazz Performance in 2005. He received top honors at VSU, including Most Outstanding Student in the VSU Music Department and College of the Arts. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in jazz studies at The Juilliard School. Mr. Crenshaw was the 2004 Eastern Trombone Workshop National Jazz Solo Competition winner. His teachers include Douglas Farwell and Wycliffe Gordon, and he has worked with the likes of Gerald Wilson, Wynton Marsalis, Marcus Printup, Vincent Gardner, Wycliffe Gordon, Jiggs Whigham, Carl Allen, Victor Goines, Marc Cary, Walter Blanding, Wessell Anderson, Cassandra Wilson and Eric Reed.

Victor Goines (tenor and soprano saxophones, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet), has been a member of the JLCO and the Wynton Marsalis Septet since 1993, touring throughout the world and appearing on over 20 recordings, including Mr. Marsalis’s Pulitzer Prize-winning Blood on the Fields (1997) and Ken Burns’s acclaimed documentaries, Jazz and Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson. He is an accomplished solo artist and leads his own quartet and quintet. As a leader, Mr. Goines has five recordings, the latest being New Adventures, released in 2006 by Criss Cross Records. In 2000, Mr. Goines was commissioned by Juilliard’s Dance Division to compose a work in celebration of its 50th anniversary. His composition Base Line was premiered in 2002 to support the original choreography by Juilliard alumnus Robert Battle. Born in 1961 and raised in New Orleans, Mr. Goines
Sherman Irby (saxophone) was born and raised in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and chose the viola as his first instrument. Encouraged by his mother to explore music, Mr. Irby later studied the guitar and piano, which he played in church. Although he studied classical music in school and played gospel music in church and R&B at dances, he was influenced by listening to Charlie Parker to turn to jazz. At Clark-Atlanta University, he played in the school jazz orchestra and performed with Lionel Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Rouse and Kenny Burrell. In 1994, he moved to New York and played with the Boys Choir of Harlem, and the following year he landed the second alto chair with the JLCO. In 1996 and 1997, he participated in Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead program. He has toured with Marcus Roberts and worked with Ann Hampton Callaway, the Brooklyn Philharmonic and New York City Ballet. Also in 1997, Mr. Irby joined Roy Hargrove's band, performing in the Grammy-winning Criot project and touring with Mr. Hargrove's group for the following three years. Mr. Irby has released three records to date: Full Circle (Blue Note), Big Mama's Biscuits (Blue Note) and Black Warrior (BWR). The New York Times voted Big Mama's Biscuits as one of the top 10 records of 1998. He continues to tour with his own group and promote Black Warrior.

Ali Jackson (drums) developed his talent on drums at an early age. In 1993, he graduated from Cass Tech High School and was the recipient of Michigan's prestigious Artserv "Emerging Artist" award in 1998. As a child, he was selected as the soloist for the "Beacons of Jazz" concert at New School University that honored drummer Max Roach. After earning an undergraduate degree in music composition at the New School, he studied under Elvin Jones and Mr. Roach. Mr. Jackson has been part of Young Audiences, a program that educates New York City youth about jazz. He has performed and recorded with artists including Wynton Marsalis, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Aretha Franklin, George Benson, Harry Connick, Jr., KRS-1, Marcus Roberts, Joshua Redman, Vinx, conductor Seiji Ozawa, Diana Krall and New York City Ballet. Most recently, his production skills can be heard on George Benson's GRP release Irreplaceable. Mr. Jackson is also featured on the Wynton Marsalis Quartet's The Magic Hour (2004). Mr. Jackson collaborated with jazz greats Cyrus Chestnutt, Reginaud Veal and James Carter on Gold Sounds (2005), a recording project that transformed indie alternative rock band Pavement's songs into unique virtuosic interpretations with the attitude of the church and jule joint. Mr. Jackson currently performs with the JLCO, the Wynton Marsalis Quintet, "phenom ensemble," Horns in the Hood and leads his own Ali Jackson Quartet. He also hosts "Jammin' with Jackson" a series for young musicians at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Dizzy Club Coca-Cola. He is also the voice of "Duck Ellington," a character in the Penguin book series Baby Love Jazz, released in summer 2006.

Ryan Kisor (trumpet) was born in 1973 in Sioux City, Iowa, and began playing trumpet at age four. In 1990, he won first prize at the Thelonious Monk Institute's first annual Louis Armstrong Trumpet Competition. Mr. Kisor enrolled in the Manhattan School of Music in 1991, where he studied with trumpeter Lew Soloff. He has performed and/or recorded with the Mingus Big Band, the Gil Evans Orchestra, Horace Silver, Gerry Mulligan, Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, the Philip Morris Jazz All-Stars and others. As well as being an active sideman, Mr. Kisor has recorded several albums as a leader, including Battle Cry (1997), The Usual Suspects (1998) and Point of Arrival (2000). He has been a member of the JLCO since 1994.

Elliot Mason (trombone), born in England in 1977, began trumpet lessons with his father at age four and at age seven took up the piano. However, struck with an overwhelming curiosity in his father's trombone, young Mason soon switched his focus from the trumpet. As an 11-year-old, Mr. Mason was already performing as a trombonist in dance halls, theaters, clubs and pubs, covering all styles of music but concentrating primarily on jazz and improvisation. In 1992, at 15, he won the national Daily Telegraph Young Jazz Soloist (under 23) Award and was featured at John Dankworth's Wavendon Jazz School. Entering alternate age categories the next year, Elliot and his brother Brad, as the Mason Brothers, won the national competition a second time. At age 16, Mr. Mason left England to join his brother at the Berklee College of Music in Massachusetts on a full scholarship, where he met and studied with Hal Crook and Phil Wilson, among others. In 1994, Mr. Mason won the prestigious Frank Rosolino Award for outstanding trombone performance abilities, and was invited to perform at the International Trombone Workshop. At 18, he won the ITW's Under 23 Jazz Trombone competition, as well as the Slide Hampton Award in recognition of outstanding performance abilities from Berklee. After graduating from Berklee in 1996, Mr. Mason moved to New York City, where he distinguished himself as a respected and highly in demand trombone and bass trumpet player. In 2007, Mr. Mason was invited to become a member of the JLCO. While a permanent performer with JLCO, Mr. Mason continues to co-lead the Mason Brothers Band with his brother, Brad. Mr. Mason's career includes performances with the Count Basie Orchestra, Maynard Ferguson Big Bop Nouveau, Mingus Big Band, Maria Schneider Orchestra, Toshiko Akiyoshi Orchestra, George Gruntz Concert Jazz Band and the Temptations. He has also performed with Jessica Simpson, Queen Latifah, Willie Nelson, Shirley Bassey, Bette Midler, Glenn Close, Natalie Cole, Wynton Marsalis, Randy Brecker, Chris Potter, Mike Stern, Hiram Bullock, Joe Zawinul, Airtto Moreira, John Abercrombie, Abe Laboriel, Jeff Ballad, Victor Lewis, Gary Hubbard, Kenny Wheeeler, Claudio Roditi, Vincent Herring, Slide Hampton, Carl Fontana, Bill Watrous, Matthew Garrison, Lionel Loueke and Greioire Maret.

Ted Nash (saxophones, clarinets and flutes) was born in Los Angeles into a musical family—his father, Dick Nash, and uncle, Ted Nash, were well-known jazz and studio musicians. He first came to New York at age 18 and soon released, Conception, his first album as a leader. During his first three years in New York, he became a regular member of the Gerry Mulligan Big Band, the National Jazz Ensemble and the Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra, the latter an association that would last for more than 10 years. It was in this fertile environment that Mr. Nash began to write his first arrangements. In
Marcus Printup (trumpet) was born and raised in Conyers, Georgia. His first musical experiences were hearing the fiery gospel music his parents sang in church, and he later discovered jazz as a senior in high school. While attending the University of North Florida on a music scholarship, he won the International Trumpet Guild Jazz Trumpet competition. In 1991, Mr. Printup's life changed dramatically when he met his mentor, pianist Marcus Roberts. Mr. Roberts introduced him to Wynton Marsalis, which led to his induction into the JLCO in 1993. Mr. Printup has performed and/or recorded with Betty Carter, Dianne Reeves, Eric Reed, Cyrus Chestnutt, Wycliffe Gordon and Mr. Roberts, among others. Mr. Printup has also released several recordings as a leader, Song for the Beautiful Woman, Unveiled, Hub Songs, Nocturnal Traces and his most recent, The New Bougalo. He made his screen debut in the 1999 movie Playing by Heart and recorded on the film's soundtrack.

Joe Temperley (baritone and soprano saxophones, bass clarinet) was born in Scotland and first achieved prominence in the United Kingdom in 1958 as a member of Humphrey Lyttelton’s band, which toured the United States in 1959. In 1966, he came to New York City, where he performed and/or recorded with Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Joe Henderson, Duke Pearson, the Jazz Composer’s Orchestra, the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra and Clark Terry, among many others. In October 1974, he toured and recorded with the Duke Ellington Orchestra as a replacement for Harry Carney. In the 1980s, Mr. Temperley performed in the Broadway show Sophisticated Ladies, and his film soundtrack credits include The Cotton Club, Biloxi Blues, Brighton Beach Memoirs, When Harry Met Sally and Tune in Tomorrow, with a score composed by Wynton Marsalis. Mr. Temperley is a mentor and a co-founder of the FIFE Youth Jazz Orchestra program in Scotland, which now enrolls 70 young musicians ages 7 to 17 playing in three full-size bands. He has released several albums as a leader, including Nightingale (1991), Sunbeam and Thundercloud with pianist Dave McKenna (1996), and With Every Breath (1998) and Double Duke (1999) with several fellow JLCO members. He is an original member of the JLCO, and serves on the faculty of the Juilliard Institute for Jazz Studies.

James Zollar (trumpet) began his musical career at age nine, playing bugle in his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri. He graduated to the trumpet at age 12, discovering his musical voice and focus. He attended San Diego City College and UC San Diego. While in college, Mr. Zollar honed his chops with various funk and jazz bands, which led him to form his own straight-ahead jazz quintet. In 1984, he moved to New York City and played with the Cecil McBee Quintet for five years and recorded with Tom Harrell, Weldon Evring and Sam Rivers. Mr. Zollar was featured in Robert Altman’s motion picture Kansas City, Madonna’s music video “My Baby’s Got a Secret,” Malcolm Lee’s motion picture The Best Man and on the soundtrack of The Perez Family. He is also proud to be included in The Biographical Encyclopedia of Jazz (Oxford University Press, 1999). Mr. Zollar has been a featured soloist in the Jon Faddis and Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestras and the JLCO with Wynton Marsalis. He currently performs in a wide range of musical settings, including the Duke Ellington Orchestra, the Count Basie Orchestra, Don Byron’s bands, the Marty Ehrlich Sextet and Latin piano master Eddie Palmieri.

Dan Nimmer (piano) was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1982. He began playing the piano at age 10. His family inherited a piano and he started playing by ear. Soon Mr. Nimmer was given classical lessons, and at age 15 he began to study jazz at the Milwaukee Conservatory of Music. His parents took him to local jazz clubs so that he could hear the music and eventually had opportunities to sit in and meet people. It was not long before he started working with his mentor, Milwaukee saxophone legend Berkley Fudge. Upon graduation from high school, Mr. Nimmer studied music at Northern Illinois University for two years, working in Chicago clubs nightly and expanding his contacts and repertoire. He joined guitarist Fareed Haque’s band, with whom he has toured and recorded ever since. Mr. Nimmer moved to New York City in January 2004 and began working with Wynton Marsalis in March 2009. Mr. Nimmer has appeared at the Montreux, Vienne and North Sea jazz festivals. He has shared the stage with Curtis Fuller, Benny Golson, Larry Ridley, Ed Thigpen, Frank Wess, Fareed Haque, Wess Anderson, Wynton Marsalis, Kurt Elling and Carl Allen, among others.