

Friday, March 11, 2011, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Branford Marsalis Quartet & Terence Blanchard Quintet



Marsalis by Palma Kolansky; Blanchard by Jenny Bagert

Branford Marsalis *saxophones*
Joey Calderazzo *piano*
Eric Revis *bass*
Justin Faulkner *drums*

Terence Blanchard *trumpet*
Brice Winston *saxophone*
Fabian Almazan *piano*
Joshua Crumbly *bass*
Kendrick Scott *drums*

*This performance is made possible, in part, by
Patron Sponsors Joseph and Sherry Felson.*

Cal Performances' 2010–2011 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

SAXOPHONIST BRANFORD MARSALIS, born in 1960, has always been a man of numerous musical interests, from jazz, blues and funk to such classical music projects as his 2008 tour with Marsalis Brasilianos. The three-time Grammy Award-winner has continued to exercise and expand his skills as an instrumentalist, a composer and the head of Marsalis Music, the label he founded in 2002 that has allowed him to produce both his own projects and those of the jazz world's most promising new and established artists.

The New Orleans native was born into one of the city's most distinguished musical families, which includes patriarch-pianist-educator Ellis and Mr. Marsalis's siblings, Wynton, Delfeayo and Jason. Mr. Marsalis gained initial acclaim through his work with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and his brother Wynton's quintet in the early 1980s before forming his own ensemble. He has also performed and recorded with a who's who of jazz giants, including Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Herbie Hancock and Sonny Rollins.

Known for his innovative spirit and broad musical scope, Mr. Marsalis is equally at home on the stages of the world's greatest clubs and concert halls, where he has performed jazz with his quartet and his own unique musical approach to contemporary popular music with his band Buckshot LeFonque. In recent years, Mr. Marsalis has also become increasingly active as a featured soloist with such acclaimed orchestras as the Chicago, Detroit, Düsseldorf and North Carolina symphonies and the Boston Pops, in a growing repertoire that includes compositions by Copland, Debussy, Glazunov, Ibert, Mahler, Mihaud, Rorem and Vaughan Williams.

As Mr. Marsalis continues to establish his presence in the classical realm, his propensity for innovation and forward thinking compels him to seek new and challenging works by modern classical composers. One such composer, Sally Beamish, after hearing Mr. Marsalis perform her composition *The Imagined Sound of Sun on Stone* at the 2006 North Sea Jazz Festival, was inspired to reconceive a piece in progress, *Under the Wing*

of the Rock, which he premiered as part of the Celtic Connections festival in Ms. Beamish's home country of Scotland in January 2009. This performance followed on the heels of his two-month classical tour with the Philharmonia Brasileira in a program featuring the music of Brazil's master composer Heitor Villa-Lobos and French composer Darius Milhaud, allowing Mr. Marsalis the opportunity to more thoroughly engage the music and make it his own.

Mr. Marsalis's nearly two dozen recordings have received numerous accolades. His latest CD, *Metamorphosen*, released in March 2009, marked the tenth anniversary of Mr. Marsalis's quartet, which features pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis and founding drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts, and includes original compositions by all four members in a variety of moods, as well as features for Mr. Marsalis on tenor, soprano and alto saxophones.

His previous disc, the Grammy-nominated *Braggtown*, was acknowledged as his quartet's greatest recorded achievement to date. The quartet's *Eternal* also received a Grammy nomination, as well as virtually universal inclusion in lists and polls for the best jazz recording of 2004. Mr. Marsalis's playing on the DVD *Coltrane's "A Love Supreme" Live in Amsterdam* received a Grammy nomination for best instrumental jazz solo, while also garnering awards for music and video excellence from the DVD Association.

As an educator, Mr. Marsalis is dedicated to changing the future of jazz in the classroom. He has shared his knowledge at Michigan State, San Francisco State, Stanford and North Carolina Central universities, with his quartet participating in an innovative extended residency at North Carolina Central. He is also bringing a new approach to jazz education to student musicians and listeners in colleges and high schools through Marsalis Jams, an interactive program designed by Mr. Marsalis in which leading jazz ensembles present concert/jam sessions in mini-residencies. Marsalis Jams has visited campuses in the northeast, mid-Atlantic, southeast and southwest United States, and established an ongoing Marsalis Berklee Jams series with the Berklee College of Music in 2008.

These diverse interests are also reflected in Mr. Marsalis's other activities. He spent two years touring and recording with Sting, and was the musical director of *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* for two years in the 1990s. He has collaborated with the Grateful Dead and Bruce Hornsby, acted in films, including *Throw Mama from the Train* and *School Daze*, provided music for *Mo' Better Blues* and other films, and hosted National Public Radio's syndicated program *Jazz Set*.

Among the most socially conscious voices in the arts, Mr. Marsalis quickly immersed himself in relief efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. He is the honorary chair of the New Orleans Habitat for Humanity effort to rebuild the city, and together with his friend Harry Connick, Jr. conceived the Habitat Musicians' Village currently under construction in the city's historic Ninth Ward.

Whether on the stage, in the recording studio, in the classroom or in the community, Branford Marsalis represents a commitment to musical excellence and a determination to keep music at the forefront.

TERENCE BLANCHARD has established himself as one of the most influential jazz musicians and film-score masters of his generation, creating a legacy that has helped to shape the contours of modern jazz. A true "renaissance" artist with more than 29 albums to his credit, Mr. Blanchard is a five-time Grammy Award-winner.

Mr. Blanchard's latest work, *Choices*, was released by Concord Jazz in 2009 to widespread critical acclaim. Recorded in New Orleans at the Ogden Museum of Art—itsself a survivor of Hurricane Katrina—*Choices* addresses the choices we make in life, on both the societal and personal levels. Guest artists on *Choices* include writer, speaker, educator and activist Dr. Cornel West and singer, musician and composer Bilal. Dr. West performs spoken-word pieces on the album with Bilal providing vocals on several tracks.

As a film composer, Mr. Blanchard has more than 50 scores to his credit and received

a Golden Globe nomination for Spike Lee's *25th Hour*. Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Lee previously collaborated on the HBO documentaries *When the Levees Broke* and *If God's Willing and Da Creek Don't Rise*, which detail the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina. In 2007, Mr. Blanchard released the CD *A Tale of God's Will (A Requiem for Katrina)*, a haunting and impassioned song cycle which included tracks from *Levees*. *A Tale of God's Will* went on to win a Grammy Award for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album.

Mr. Blanchard recently appeared on HBO's New Orleans-based drama *Treme*, and on *The Tonight Show*. In 2008 and 2009, he completed the score for Mr. Lee's *Miracle at St. Anna* and the soundtrack for Darnell Martin's *Cadillac Records*, as well as contributing tracks for Walt Disney's *The Princess and the Frog*. Mr. Blanchard's other film writing includes music for Kasi Lemmons's *Eve's Bayou* and *Talk to Me*, Oprah Winfrey's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Tim Story's *Barbershop* and Ron Shelton's *Dark Blue*. He is currently working on the score for George Lucas's *Red Tails*, set for release in fall 2011.

Mr. Blanchard's Broadway debut will occur in the Scott Rudin production of *The Mother*—with *the Hat*, starring Chris Rock, which will open on April 11, 2011. He is also at work on the musical score for the remake of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, set to open on Broadway in fall 2011, and has been commissioned by Opera St. Louis to write an original opera based on the life of boxing legend Emile Griffith, scheduled to premiere in 2012.

In fall 2011, Mr. Blanchard will become the Artistic Director of the Henry Mancini Institute, a prestigious program at the University of Miami Frost School of Music that is training a new generation of orchestral and jazz artists to create and perform in mixed-genre, collaborative settings. In addition to this new role, Mr. Blanchard will become the Artistic Director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He continues to tour with his quintet and participates in master classes around the world as well as in local community outreach activities in his beloved hometown of New Orleans.