

wexner center
for the arts

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JAZZ GREAT WYNTON MARSALIS RETURNS TO WEXNER CENTER

NEW QUARTET PERFORMS TWO SHOWS IN INTIMATE SETTING

Led by one of the most acclaimed jazz musicians working today, the **Wynton Marsalis Quartet** performs two shows presented by the Wexner Center on **Thursday, April 22 at 7 pm and 9 pm** in the intimate setting of Weigel Auditorium. Trumpeter Marsalis has recruited a remarkable quartet: pianist Eric Lewis, bassist Carlos Henriquez, and drummer Ali Jackson. The evening will showcase their latest release and debut on the legendary Blue Note Records label, *The Magic Hour*, which *The Baltimore Sun* called "smart and lyrical." This is Marsalis's eighth appearance at the Wexner Center either leading his own band or as director of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. **Tickets to both shows are selling quickly; advance purchase is recommended.**

WYNTON MARSALIS

As a major figure in jazz for the last three decades, Wynton Marsalis has forged a career of astonishing depth and historical importance. Marsalis's epic *Blood on the Fields* (performed at the Wexner Center in 1997) was the first jazz-based work to receive the Pulitzer Prize, and as musical director of Lincoln Center he has been at the fore of promoting and supporting a wide array of musicians and artists.

The son of pianist Ellis Marsalis and brother of saxophonist Branford, Wynton Marsalis began his career in earnest in the early 1980s when, fresh out of Julliard, he recorded with the storied Art Blakey Big Band and joined the Jazz Messengers. By 1981 Marsalis was touring with Herbie Hancock, recording for Columbia Records, and releasing his first self-titled album as a leader.

In the 80s, Marsalis released such seminal works as *Black Codes (From the Underground)*, *Standard Time Vols. 1-3*, and the lauded soundtrack for the film *Tune in Tomorrow*. By the mid-90s Marsalis's recordings had grown more and more ambitious with *Blood on the Fields* and *Standard Time, Vol. 6: Mr. Jelly Lord*, his acclaimed

tribute to Jelly Roll Morton. In 2004 Marsalis left his home at Columbia Records and set up shop at the vanguard Blue Note Records. Marsalis's first release for Blue Note is *The Magic Hour*, his first album of all-original material since 1985's *Black Codes (From the Underground)*. *The Magic Hour* marks a back-to-basics approach with a small group after his large-scale works of the late '90s. Produced by his brother Delfeayo and featuring appearances by Dianne Reeves and Bobby McFerrin, *The Magic Hour* has been praised by *All About Jazz* as "a joyful testament to exceptional musicianship."

For more information: www.wyntonmarsalis.com or www.wyntonmarsalis.net

EVENT SUPPORT

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2003-04 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Additional support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

Wynton Marsalis Quartet presented with support from TIAA-CREF.

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CALENDAR INFORMATION: Wynton Marsalis Quartet

Description: Jazz trumpet star Wynton Marsalis returns to the Wexner Center for two intimate shows with his quartet in support of his Blue Note Records debut, *The Magic Hour*.

Date and times: Thursday April 22 / 7 & 9 pm

Location: Weigel Auditorium; 1866 College Rd.

Tickets: \$36 general public; \$32 members; \$28 Ohio State students

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk, 614 292-3535 and Ticketmaster outlets, 614 431-3600.

Public information: 614 292-3535 and wexarts.org

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Digital images available upon request.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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