



Saturday | January 28 | 8pm
Berklee Performance Center

An Evening with Branford Marsalis

Branford Marsalis saxophone

Joey Calderazzo piano

Eric Revis bass

Justin Faulkner drums

*There will be no intermission in this evening's program,
which will end which will end between 9:30pm and 9:45pm*

Branford Marsalis appears by arrangement with Opus 3 Artists.

2022/23 Season Sponsors **Amy & Joshua Boger**

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Branford Marsalis

Branford Marsalis continues to thrill audiences around the world while racking up achievements across diverse musical platforms, even after four decades in the international spotlight. From his initial recognition as a young jazz lion, he has expanded his vision as an instrumentalist, composer, bandleader, and educator, crossing stylistic boundaries while maintaining an unwavering creative integrity. In the process, he has become an avatar of contemporary artistic excellence winning three Grammy Awards, a Tony nomination for his work as a composer on Broadway, a citation by the National Endowment for the Arts as Jazz Master, and a 2021 Primetime EMMY nomination for the score he composed for the Tulsa Burning documentary.

Growing up in the rich environment of New Orleans as the oldest son of pianist and educator, the late Ellis Marsalis, Branford was drawn to music along with siblings Wynton, Delfeayo, and Jason. The Branford Marsalis Quartet, formed in 1986, remains his primary performance vehicle. In its virtually uninterrupted three-plus decades of existence, the Quartet has established a rare breadth of stylistic range as demonstrated on the band's latest release: *The Secret Between the Shadow and the Soul*. But Branford has not confined his music to the jazz quartet context. A frequent soloist with classical ensembles, Branford has become increasingly sought after as a featured soloist with acclaimed orchestras around the world, performing works by composers such as Copland, Debussy, Glazunov, Ibert, Mahler, Milhaud, Rorem, Vaughan Williams, and Villa-Lobos. And his legendary guest performances with the Grateful Dead and collaborations with Sting have made him a fan favorite in the pop arena.

Branford's screen credits as a composer include original music for: Spike Lee's *Mo' Better Blues*; *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, starring Oprah Winfrey; *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, starring Viola Davis and the late Chadwick Boseman; and the History Channel's documentary *Tulsa Burning: The 1921 Race Massacre*. The critically acclaimed *Ma Rainey* is the Netflix film adaptation of two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson's play, produced by Denzel Washington. And in reviewing the score, *Vanity Fair* proclaimed "*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* is a story in which the music has to be authentic and the details need to be correct. It requires the musical oversight of someone who has this history in his blood. It requires Branford Marsalis." While *The Guardian* noted "Marsalis's work, both recreation and original composition, is as close to perfection as I could imagine." He recently received a 2021 EMMY nomination for the original music he composed and produced for *Tulsa Burning* in the Outstanding Music Composition for a Documentary Series or Special (Original Dramatic Score) category. His work on Broadway has garnered a Drama Desk Award and a Tony nomination for the acclaimed revival of *Fences*. His previous Broadway efforts include music for the revivals of *Children of a Lesser God* and *A Raisin in the Sun*, as well as *The Mountaintop*, which starred Angela Bassett and Samuel L. Jackson.

Branford is also committed to the development of the next generation of musicians. He enjoys working with students and has formed an extended relationship with North Carolina Central University where he has been teaching for the past eighteen years. He has also taught at Michigan State University and San Francisco State University and continues to conduct workshops throughout the world.

After the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, Branford, along with friend Harry Connick, Jr., conceived of “Musicians’ Village,” a residential community in the Upper Ninth Ward of New Orleans. The centerpiece of the Village is the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, honoring Branford’s father. The Center uses music as the focal point of a holistic strategy to build a healthy community and to deliver a broad range of services to underserved children, youth, and musicians from neighborhoods battling poverty and social injustice.

Branford Marsalis Quartet

Saxophonist Branford Marsalis is one of the most influential and revered figures in contemporary music. The NEA Jazz Master, Grammy Award winner and Tony Award nominee is equally at home performing concertos with symphony orchestras and sitting in with members of the Grateful Dead, but the core of his musical universe remains the **Branford Marsalis Quartet**. After more than three decades of existence with minimal personnel changes, this celebrated ensemble is revered for its uncompromising interpretation of a kaleidoscopic range of both original compositions and jazz and popular classics. After the Grammy-nominated *Upward Spiral*, on which guest vocalist Kurt Elling was seamlessly integrated into the group, the Quartet followed up with the Grammy-nominated *The Secret Between the Shadow and the Soul*, its most emotionally wide-ranging and melody driven collection to date. John Zeugner captured the impact of the Quartet in live performance in a recent concert review, calling it “casually confident, professional, cerebral, and supercharged with energy. The Branford Marsalis Quartet...was all of those adjectives and more.”

From the Celebrity Series of Boston archives...

Branford Marsalis made his Celebrity Series debut in March 2003 in a program billed as “Ellis Marsalis & Sons” and featuring his father Ellis, and brothers Wynton, Delfeayo, and Jason. He returned as headliner with a quartet in January 2015, and appears for the third time tonight. Joey Calderazzo performed with Marsalis in 2015; Eric Revis and Justin Faulkner are presented for the first time tonight.



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Celebrity Series 2023 Jazz Performances

An Evening with Branford Marsalis

Sat, Jan 28, 8pm | Berklee Performance Center

Artemis

Sat, Feb 4, 8pm | Berklee Performance Center

Jason Moran & The Big Bandwagon:

*James Reese Europe and the Harlem Hellfighters:
From the Dancehall to the Battlefield*

Fri, Feb 17, 8pm | Berklee Performance Center

JAZZ FESTIVAL – Artists For Humanity EpiCenter

Melissa Aldana Quartet | Wed, Mar 8, 7pm

Hiromo | Thu, Mar 9, 7pm

Nnenna Freelon | Fri, Mar 10, 7pm

Ambrose Akinmusire | Sat, Mar 11, 7pm

Terri Lyne Carrington + Social Science

Fri, Mar 24, 8pm | Berklee Performance Center

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
with Wynton Marsalis**

Fri, Apr 21, 8pm | Symphony Hall

Béla Fleck, Edgar Meyer & Zakir Hussain

Sat, May 6, 8pm | Berklee Performance Center

**The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra
Featuring Diane Schuur**

Sat, May 20, 8pm

Calderwood Studio at GBH Boston