Music of Count Basie and Duke Ellington









FEBRUARY



Casino Royale in Concert

James Bond on the big screen accompanied by the Sydney Symphony performing David Arnold's thrilling musical score live to the film!

CASINO ROYALE LICENSED BY MGM. CASINO ROYALE © 2006 DANJAQ, UNITED ARTISTS.

Thu 28 Feb, 8pm Fri 1 Mar, 8pm Sat 2 Mar, 2pm Sydney Opera House



MARCH



Scottish Fantasy

R STRAUSS Macbeth
*BRUCH Scottish Fantasy for violin and orchestra
*MENDELSSOHN Symphony No.3 (Scottish)

Asher Fisch conductor Tianwa Yang violin Thursday Afternoon Symphony Thu 7 Mar, 1.30pm Tea & Symphony* Fri 8 Mar, 11am Great Classics Sat 9 Mar, 2pm



Pictures At An Exhibition

A SYDNEY SYMPHONY FAMILY EVENT

MUSSORGSKY orch. Goehr Pictures at an Exhibition

Benjamin Northey conductor Andy Dexterity mime artist Sun 17 Mar, 1pm Sun 17 Mar, 2.45pm Sydney Opera House

Sydney Opera House



Alessio Bax performs Mozart

MOZART Piano Concerto No.27 in B flat, K595 BEETHOVEN Symphony No.8

Andrew Haveron violin-director Alessio Bax piano Mozart in the City Thu 21 Mar, 7pm City Recital Hall



Alessio Bax in Recital

JS BACH Concerto in D minor, BWV 974 (after Marcello) RACHMANINOFF Corelli Variations DALLAPICCOLA Annalibera's Musical Notebook LISZT St Francis of Assisi's Sermon to the Birds, S175/1 LISZT Dante Sonata

Alessio Bax piano

International Pianists in Recital Mon 25 Mar, 7pm City Recital Hall





Barry Douglas performs Brahms WITH SIBELIUS SYMPHONY NO.7

MILLS Aeolian Caprices SIBELIUS Symphony No.7 BRAHMS Piano Concerto No.2

Lawrence Renes conductor Barry Douglas piano

Meet The Music
Wed 27 Mar, 6.30pm
Thursday Afternoon Symphony
Thu 28 Mar, 1.30pm
Emirates Metro Series
Fri 29 Mar, 8pm
Great Classics
Sat 30 Mar, 2pm
Sydney Opera House





Haydn and Beethoven HILDEGARD OF BINGEN Improvisation on 'Ave Generosa' HAYDN arr. Oguey Cor Anglais Quintet (after the 'Gypsy Rondo' Piano Trio)

BEETHOVEN arr. Boersma Serenade in D, Op.8 Musicians of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Cocktail Hour Fri 29 Mar, 6pm Sat 30 Mar, 6pm Sydney Opera House, Utzon Room



Credit Suisse welcomes you to this special musical event as the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra return to Sydney to present a concert of red-hot tunes from two of the greatest jazzmen, Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

We are proud to support the return of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, one of the most sensational big bands of our day, led by internationally acclaimed musician and composer, Wynton Marsalis.

The relationship between the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra is bound by a shared passion for great music. As Premier Partner, we are delighted to play a role in supporting this passion, and to spread that passion to Australian school children.

We provide Australian primary school children with access to music via the Credit Suisse Sydney Symphony Orchestra Schools Music Education Program. In its first year, in 2018, the program helped primary school teachers with resources and training to deliver a music curriculum to our pilot schools. The students' response to the integration of music into their everyday learning so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

Our program empowers teachers to link music with literacy and numeracy subjects, creating memorable references to help students' overall academic tuition. We are excited to partner with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra to bring our seemingly diverse industries together.



John Knox
Chief Executive Officer
Credit Suisse Australia

2019 CONCERT SEASON

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 7PM
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CONCERT HALL



David Robertson

The Lowy Chair of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

Music of Count Basie and Duke Ellington

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in Concert

Wynton Marsalis music director, trumpet

Ryan Kisor trumpet

Kenny Rampton trumpet

Marcus Printup trumpet

Vincent Gardner trombone

Chris Crenshaw trombone

Sam Chess trombone

 $\textbf{Sherman Irby} \ alto \ \& \ soprano \ sax ophones, flute, \ clarinet$

Ted Nash alto & soprano saxophones, flute, clarinet

Victor Goines tenor & soprano saxophones, clarinet, bass clarinet

Camille Thurman tenor saxophone

Paul Nedzela baritone & soprano saxophones, bass clarinet

Dan Nimmer piano

Carlos Henriquez bass

Jason Marsalis drums

Program to be announced from the stage

Approximate durations: 35 minutes, 20 minute interval, 35 minutes

The concert will conclude at approximately 8.45pm.

Cover image:
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
with Wynton Marsalis
(Photo by Frank Stewart)







THE ARTISTS



Wynton Marsalis *trumpet*

Wynton Marsalis (*Trumpet*) is the Managing and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center and a world-renowned trumpeter and composer. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1961, Marsalis began his classical training on trumpet at age 12, entered The Juilliard School at age 17 and then joined Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. He made his recording debut as a leader in 1982, and has since recorded more than 60 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.

Marsalis is also an internationally respected teacher and spokesman for music education, and has received honorary doctorates from dozens of U.S. universities and colleges. He has written six books; his most recent are Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!, illustrated by Paul Rogers and published by Candlewick Press in 2012, and Moving to Higher Ground: How Jazz Can Change Your Life with Geoffrey C. Ward, published by Random House in 2008. In 1997 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. In 2001 he was appointed Messenger of Peace by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations (1997-2006), and he has also been designated cultural ambassador to the United States of America by the U.S. State Department through their CultureConnect program.

Marsalis was instrumental in the Higher Ground Hurricane Relief concert, produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center. The event raised more than US\$3 million for the Higher Ground Relief Fund to benefit the musicians, music industry-related enterprises, and other individuals and entities from the areas in Greater New Orleans who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Marsalis helped lead the effort to construct Jazz at Lincoln Center's home — Frederick P. Rose Hall — the first education, performance, and broadcast facility devoted to jazz, which opened in October 2004.

Walter Blanding



Chris Crenshaw



Marion Felde



Victor Goines



Carlos Henriquez



Sherman Irby



Ted Nash



Paul Nedzela



Dan Nimmer



Vincent Gardner



Greg Gisbert





Wynton Marsalis



Elliot Mason



marcus Printu



Kenny Rampton

At this evening's performance
Camille Thurman will substitute
for Walter Blanding, Sam Chess will
substitute for Elliot Mason, and



Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis (JLCO) comprises 15 of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players today. Led by Wynton Marsalis, Jazz at Lincoln Center Managing and Artistic Director, this remarkably versatile orchestra performs a vast repertoire ranging from original compositions and Jazz at Lincoln Centercommissioned works to rare historic compositions and masterworks by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, and many others. The JLCO has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra since 1988, performing and leading educational events in New York, across the United States, and around the globe. Alongside symphony orchestras, ballet troupes, local students, and an ever-expanding roster of guest artists, the JLCO has toured over 300 cities across six continents. 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. The JLCO has been voted best Big Band in the annual DownBeat Readers' Poll for the past four years (2013-2016).

In 2015, Jazz at Lincoln Center announced the launch of Blue Engine Records, a new platform to make its archive of recorded concerts available to jazz audiences everywhere. The first release from Blue Engine Records, Live in Cuba, was recorded on an historic 2010 trip to Havana by JLCO and was released in October 2015. Big Band Holidays was released in December 2015, The Abyssinian Mass came out in March 2016, and The Music of John Lewis came out in March 2017. Handful of Keys, featuring a group of all-star guest pianists, arrived in September 2017. To date, 14 other recordings featuring the JLCO have been released and internationally distributed: Vitoria Suite (2010); Portrait in Seven Shades (2010); Congo Square (2007); Don't Be Afraid...The Music of Charles Mingus (2005); A Love Supreme (2005); All Rise (2002); Big Train (1999); Sweet Release & Ghost Story (1999); Live in Swing City (1999); Jump Start and Jazz (1997); Blood on the Fields (1997); They Came to Swing (1994); The Fire of the Fundamentals (1993); and Portraits by Ellington (1992). Visit jazz.org for more information.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Duke Ellington

Duke Ellington had a favourite phrase to describe musicians whose work he admired: he would say that they were 'beyond category'. The man whom many regard as jazz's – or indeed America's – greatest composer lived an extraordinary life and amassed thousands of compositions. His career began in the relatively modest dance band scene in Washington D.C. and would eventually encompass the Harlem Renaissance, the rise and ebb of swing, the challenge of bebop, and the subsequent fragmentation of jazz styles. Through it all Ellington continued to follow his own course, and by the time of his death in 1974 jazz had truly established itself as one of the foremost art forms of the 20th century.

In jazz history Ellington occupies a place uniquely his own due to the breadth of his vision and diversity of his output. Among his compositions are to be found pieces in the exotic plunger-muted style favoured by patrons of the Cotton Club, tunes that acquired lyrics and became popular songs ('Sophisticated Lady', 'Don't Get Around Much Anymore'), concertante-style numbers to showcase his soloists ('Clarinet Lament', 'Echoes of Harlem', 'Boy Meets Horn'), concert suites, ballets, film scores, and music for his Sacred Concerts of the late 1960s and early 70s.

Many of the musicians that Ellington assembled for his band had their own unique voice, and he crafted music with their particular talents and idiosyncrasies in mind – Sonny Greer's flamboyant drums, the growl and gutbucket techniques of trumpeter Bubber Miley and trombonist Joe 'Tricky Sam' Nanton, and alto saxophonist Johnny Hodges, whose portamento graced many ballads such as 'Prelude to a Kiss'. As he expanded the

'I don't know where jazz itself starts or where it stops, where Tin Pan Alley starts or where jazz ends, or even where more serious music and jazz divide. There is no specific boundary line. You know what it is about music? When it sounds good, it is good.'

– DUKE ELLINGTON



orchestra he experimented more freely with harmony, tone colour and texture, creating those lush dissonances which long-time collaborator Billy Strayhorn termed 'the Ellington effect'. The 1930s and early 40s are widely regarded as the peak of the band's career, the essence of the Ellington sound captured in numbers such as 'Take the A Train', 'It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)', 'Perdido', 'Caravan' and 'In a Mellotone'.

The introduction of the long-playing record in the 1940s offered Ellington the opportunity to expand the three-minute format, and in a series of annual concerts at Carnegie Hall he showcased extended works including *The Deep South Suite, The Liberian Suite, The Perfume Suite* and *The Tattooed Bride*. The first of these, *Black, Brown and Beige,* which Ellington called 'a tone parallel to the history of the American Negro', is a musical portrait of the African-American experience, from enslavement to emancipation and migration to Harlem (themes that Wynton Marsalis would later explore in his 1994 Pulitzer Prize-winning jazz oratorio *Blood on the Fields*). The desire to tell the story of his people and to continually reimagine the jazz landscape in defiance of narrow stereotypes underpinned much of Ellington's work. His contribution remains unsurpassed and, in his words, 'beyond category'.



Duke Ellington at the Hurricane Club, 1943

Count Basie

As the hub for bands that played throughout the Midwest, Kansas City had a thriving jazz scene in the 1920s. A native of New Jersey, Count Basie had learned piano as a child from his mother before later seeking out the masters of stride in Harlem. In 1927 he landed in Kansas City, where he heard 'stomping' blues on every corner. The two leading bands in town were those of Bennie Moten and bassist Walter Page, and Basie played in both. After Moten's death in 1935 Basie formed his own ensemble with members of both bands, the line-up eventually including Page, drummer Jo Jones, tenor saxophonist Lester Young, and trumpeter Oran 'Hot Lips' Page. Regular radio broadcasts from the Reno Club in Kansas City led to the band's discovery and New York debut in 1936.

In contrast to the increasingly sophisticated direction taken by some of the emerging big bands elsewhere, the style in Kansas City was a simpler, riff-based approach deeply rooted in the blues. Basie immersed himself in this and forged a style that is still acknowledged as the epitome of swing. Crucial to this was the band's rhythm section, consisting of Basie himself, Page, Jones and guitarist Freddie Green. The key was the section's lightness of touch: Basie changed his pianistic style from the busy stride technique he had learned in Harlem, adopting instead a very sparse style of playing consisting of

'Even a single note can swing.' - COUNT BASIE



Count Basie

syncopated chordal accompaniments. This was different from the prevailing style of the time and set the template for jazz piano accompanying from then on. Page's walking bass propelled the group forward, while Jones's switch of emphasis from the bass drum to riding the high-hat cymbal lent a new buoyancy to timekeeping. With this the band soared along atop a tight rhythm section that was easy, relaxed and supple, as heard in some of their signature numbers such as 'Jumpin' at the Woodside', 'Lester Leaps In' and 'Taxi War Dance'.

Ellington and Basie Legacy

That the names of Duke Ellington and Count Basie are familiar to non-jazz fans a century after they began their careers is testament to the enduring power of their music. Their orchestras set the benchmark that bands today still seek to attain. This is something that Wynton Marsalis is determined to uphold. One of Jazz at Lincoln Center's goals is to 'attempt to preserve and honour the legacy of those artists who forged the big band genre'. Central to JALC's educational focus is Essentially Ellington, a program designed for high school bands using original arrangements of Ellington charts that have been transcribed from recordings. The program (which now runs in Australia) also features the music of Count Basie, alongside that of other distinguished arrangers and composers.

Tonight's concert is a more celebratory kind of tribute, so enjoy the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra as they swing hard and go back to where it all started with the Duke and the Count.

LORRAINE NEILSON, SYMPHONY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL © 2008/2019









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ABOUT THE PRESENTER Sydney Symphony Orchestra



DAVID ROBERTSON

THE LOWY CHAIR OF CONDUCTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PATRON Professor The Hon. Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO

Founded in 1932 by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has evolved into one of the world's finest orchestras as Sydney has become one of the world's great cities. Resident at the iconic Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra also performs in venues throughout Sydney and regional New South Wales, and international tours to Europe, Asia and the USA have earned the Orchestra worldwide recognition for artistic excellence.

Well on its way to becoming the premier orchestra of the Asia Pacific region, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has toured China on five occasions, and in 2014 won the arts category in the Australian Government's inaugural Australia-China Achievement Awards, recognising ground-breaking work in nurturing the cultural and artistic relationship between the two nations.

The Orchestra's first chief conductor was Sir Eugene Goossens, appointed in 1947; he was followed by Nicolai Malko, Dean Dixon, Moshe Atzmon, Willem van Otterloo, Louis Frémaux, Sir Charles Mackerras, Zdeněk Mácal, Stuart Challender, Edo de Waart and Gianluigi Gelmetti. Vladimir Ashkenazy was Principal Conductor from 2009 to 2013. The Orchestra's history also boasts collaborations with legendary figures such as George Szell, Sir Thomas Beecham, Otto Klemperer and Igor Stravinsky.

The Sydney Symphony's award-winning
Learning and Engagement program is central to its
commitment to the future of live symphonic
music, developing audiences and engaging the
participation of young people. The Orchestra
promotes the work of Australian composers
through performances, recordings and
commissions. Recent premieres have included
major works by Ross Edwards, Lee Bracegirdle,
Gordon Kerry, Mary Finsterer, Nigel Westlake, Paul
Stanhope and Georges Lentz, and recordings of
music by Brett Dean have been released on both
the BIS and SSO Live labels.

Other releases on the SSO Live label, established in 2006, include performances conducted by Alexander Lazarev, Sir Charles Mackerras and David Robertson, as well as the complete Mahler symphonies conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy.

2019 is David Robertson's sixth season as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director.

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Each year – both alone and in collaboration with other orchestras worldwide – the Sydney Symphony Orchestra commissions new works for the mainstage concert season. These commissions represent Australian and international composers, established and new voices, and reflect our commitment to the nurturing of orchestral music.

Premiering in 2019...

STEVE REICH Music for Ensemble and Orchestra 13, 15, 16 February

CHRISTOPHER ROUSE Bassoon Concerto 28, 29, 30 November



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Stuart Challender, Sydney Symphony Orchestra Chief Conductor and Artistic Director 1987-1991

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