

## Hear the Word on the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

"As a composer, Mr. Marsalis has taken up both challenges, of precise tone poetry and of capturing a broader American experience."

- Ben Ratliff, *The New York Times*

"[The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra] sounded fleet and gracious together, and their dynamic fluctuations seemed to ride a single breeze....It all made sense in light of what Jazz at Lincoln Center is aiming for: programming that enlightens as it entertains and grabs new listeners in the process. "The Songs We Love" gets at only part of it. Mr. Marsalis wants you to love them too."

- Nate Chinen, *The New York Times*

"[Joe] Temperley provided another highlight with his featured soloing on "My Funny Valentine," as arranged by Bob Brookmeyer. A charter member of the orchestra, Temperley not only made his baritone sax sing, he made it sing like Johnny Hartman."

-Jeffrey Lee Puckett, *Courier-Journal*

"As a leader, Marsalis seems careful not to cast old music that he respects into a museum twilight. He favors sidemen who can display his kind of personalized wit and sensuousness, as Sherman Irby did on alto sax as the band opened its set with "On the Sunny Side of the Street."

-Jay Harvey, *The Indianapolis Star*

"With the trumpet ace steering from the back row, the tight 15-man ensemble - potent horns, precisely arranged, and a spirited rhythm section - succeeded by delivering two exciting sets of music. Trumpet player Paul Lee, 17, said Marsalis's playing made him 'speechless.' 'I was planning not to practise this week, because we're on March Break, but this made me change my mind.'

-Ashante Infantry, *Toronto Star*

"...the audience was weak from applauding and shouting and jumping up and down with the joy of the great music it had heard. We had been run over by a 16-ton musical steamroller, wrung out with utter exhilaration and neatly hung up to dry by all that genuine jazz."

- John Maxim, *El Universal/The Herald*

"...LCJO really champions the greatness and durability of jazz's core repertoire, the synergy of an ensemble and the incontrovertible value of swing."

- Marty Hughley, *The Oregonian*

"The personnel of the LCJO has been remarkably stable, evident in the group's easygoing musical interaction and virtuosic soloing. Fast ensemble passages - many filled with tricky, multi-note sections - were delivered with a crisp, driving sense of swing."

- Don Heckman, *Los Angeles Times*

"...the concert proved that [LCJO] is one of the strongest, swinging-est bands in the land."

- Terry Perkins, *St. Louis Post Dispatch*

"...a veneer of polish- in execution, solo renderings, and ensemble cohesion- was constant."

- JAZZIZ

“...the LCJO sounded sharp, road-tested and capable of doing justice to a wide variety of big band styles.”

- Richard S. Ginell, *Variety*

“One rarely hears this music played with such technical brilliance, stylistic authenticity and tonal sheen...Here were the throaty reeds, percussive trumpet blasts and visceral sense of swing that have made the LCJO the greatest large jazz ensemble working today.”

- Howard Reich, *The Chicago Tribune*

“[T]he finest big band in the world today.”

- Martin Gayford, *Daily Telegraph*, UK

“The 15-piece ensemble is an extraordinarily versatile orchestra. Its program demanded, and received, a full range of stylistic musical skills.”

- Don Heckman, *Los Angeles Times*

“The LCJO comes stocked with eager and often inspired players....”

- *The New Yorker*

“The finest active big band, with each of its 15 members a certified all-star in his own right...It is a well-oiled machine, extremely polished, sharp as a razor, and tight as a drum.”

- Steve Eddy, *The Orange County Register*

“Jazz is serious, thoughtful music, but it’s a lot of fun too - and that’s the message Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra are carrying out to the world.”

- Matt Schudel, *Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*

“While Marsalis proved every ounce of his gold-worthy reputation, his entire band, individually and collectively, was nothing short of amazing. Seeing Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra in concert would make anyone think he can [go to a pawn shop,] buy a horn and start blowing the soul out of it. Marsalis and company make it look that easy.”

- Isamu Jordan, *Spokesman-Review*

“Thousands braved a torrential thunderstorm at the Esplanade on Sunday, and those faithful, wet fans were rewarded by Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, the only band of the long day to display the complex and substantial wonders of modern jazz.”

- Daneil Gewertz, *Boston Herald*

“The audience was exceedingly young, proving that...[the LCJO is] bringing ‘America’s classical music’...to a whole new generation of listeners.”

- Michael Endelman, *Boston Globe*

“For all the formality of the band’s presentation, he [Wynton Marsalis] projects an amiable informality that tells people the music is meant to be as fun as it is important.”

- Lloyd Sachs, *Chicago Sun-Times*

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