



THE NEW LIONEL HAMPTON BIG BAND

Featuring Jason Marsalis

PROGRAM

There will not be an intermission.

Saturday, March 23 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

Media Sponsor:



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The New Lionel Hampton Big Band

The band is comprised of musicians who played with Lionel Hampton himself. The Lionel Hampton Estate, eager to have the Big Band reactivate, granted permission in March of 2015 to launch the New Lionel Hampton Big Band featuring Jason Marsalis, with Christian Fabian, Cleave Guyton Jr and Lance Bryant as co-leaders. All the band leaders played with Lionel Hampton: Bryant was the Lionel Hampton Orchestra Musical Director and Principal Arranger, Guyton Jr was the last Musical Director of the band, and Fabian remains the Bass Chair of the last Big Band led by Lionel Hampton. The New Lionel Hampton Band has played to delighted capacity audiences at Blue Note NY, Yoshi's (Oakland), Cutting Room (NY), SOPAC (NJ), Berklee College of Music Performance Center (Boston) and many more.

Jason Marsalis

Marsalis is the son of pianist and music educator Ellis Marsalis and his wife Dolores, and the youngest sibling of Wynton, Branford and Delfeayo. By age six, Marsalis was taking lessons from the legendary New Orleans drummer James Black. He was progressing so rapidly that in 1984, his father started including him consistently on engagements. In 1991, he was accepted at the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts High School (NOCCA). In 1995, Marsalis joined a new group lead by virtuoso pianist Marcus Roberts, while studying composition with notable classical composer Roger Dickerson. During this time, Marsalis was playing with Joe Henderson, Lionel Hampton, CasaSamba, Neslort and Dr. Michael White, and in 1998, he co-founded the Latin jazz group Los Hombres Calientes. In 2009, the Marsalis family received the NEA Jazz Masters Award and were honored at the White House and the Kennedy Center. In 2010, Christian Fabian called him to record with drummer Ed Littlefield and pianist Reuel Lubag on two records, Fabian's *West Coast Session* and Littlefield's *Walking Between Worlds*. That collaboration inspired the formation of The Native Jazz Quartet, which recorded *NJQ Stories* in 2012 and toured for the U.S. State Department. The Quartet transforms native melodies into jazz arrangements. In 2013, Marsalis produced *In a World of Mallets* as a leader on vibes. The album went to number 1 on the CMJ radio charts.

Lance Bryant

In 1990, Bryant began his decade-long relationship with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra and in 1993, became the Orchestra's Musical Director and Principal Arranger. From Markham, Illinois, Bryant studied saxophone, composition and arranging at Berklee College of Music and later with Frank Foster, the former director of the Count Basie Orchestra, and Bruce Adolphe of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society. Bryant also made his film debut in Spike Lee's *Malcolm X* and traveled extensively with Phyllis Hyman, Jon Hendricks, Pete "LaRocca" Sims, Wallace Roney, Abdullah Ibrahim, Bootsie Collins, James Williams and others. In 2000, Bryant performed in the Tony Award® nominated Broadway production of *Swing!* as an onstage musician. Other notable projects include: *For the Love of Jazz* on Mojazz Records (Lionel Hampton) and *DemBones* and *Simply Natural* on MaxJazz Records for Grammy® nominated vocalist Carla Cook, and many more. Bryant is currently performing with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra on the Broadway musical hit *After Midnight*, as well as touring with South African pianist Abdullah Ibrahim and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Christian Fabian

Christian Fabian was born in Sweden, and moved to the U.S. in the '90s to attend Berklee College. In New York, he plays with Mike Longo's NY State of the Art Jazz Ensemble and around the metro area. With Jason Marsalis, he and the other members of The Native Jazz Quartet, a band he co-founded, toured as jazz ambassadors for the U.S. State Department in 2013 and 2014. Before receiving his scholarship at Berklee, Fabian studied at Maastricht Conservatory in the Netherlands, recorded three albums with his band Time Design, and performed throughout Europe (Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Hungary). Lionel Hampton selected Fabian as bassist for the Lionel Hampton Big Band in 1996, and he remains the bass chair of the band. He has also performed with Jimmy Owens, Gary Burton, Danny Gottlieb, Lewis Nash, John La Porta, Elvin Jones, Cheryl Bentyne, Ed Thigpen, Makoto Ozone, Chaka Khan, Bob Mintzer, Charlie Mariano, Claudio Roditi, Rick Margitza and Jon Hendricks. His compositions earned two awards and three nominations with Hollywood

Music in Media in 2008 and 2009 for Best Jazz Artist. His duo with ukelele star Herb Otha produced the Japanese hit CD *Stardust 4 Strings* on JVC. Fabian's band, Fabian Zone Trio, has released six CDs since 2006 and reached #1 on Music Choice, Top 10 on Jazz Radio for Canada and Top 20 on Jazz Week three times.

Cleave Guyton Jr.

Cleave Guyton Jr is a professional musician who plays the saxophones, flutes and clarinet. He has worked with Aretha Franklin, Abdullah Ibrahim, Joe Henderson, Stanley Turrentine, Nat Adderley, Abby Lincoln, The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Jon Hendricks, The Ray Charles Orchestra, Lionel Hampton, The Count Basie Orchestra, The Cab Calloway Orchestra, Little Jimmy Scott, Spike Lee, Joe Williams, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Ronny Jordan, The Mingus band, Cleo Laine, Chaka Khan, The Boys Choir and many more.



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