



THE RODNEY MARSALIS PHILADELPHIA BIG BRASS

Rodney Marsalis Trumpet

Ashley Hall Trumpet

Chloe Swindler Trumpet

Eric Huckins French Horn

Robyn Smith Trombone

Marty Erickson Tuba

Ben Goldman Percussion

JaQuinley Kerr Narrator

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.

Saturday, December 15 @ 7:30 PM

Harold Prince Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

Closer Walk

Contrapunctus IX

Concerto

Rodney Marsalis, solo trumpet

West Side Story (Tonight, Maria, America)

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Angels We Have Heard on High

Good King Wenceslas

Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah*

When the Saints Go Marching In

arr. Don Gillis

Johann Sebastian Bach

Harry James

Leonard Bernstein

arr. JD Shaw

arr. JD Shaw

arr. JD Shaw

George Frideric Handel

Traditional

Intermission

Nutcracker Suite

Twas the Night Before Christmas

Can't Help Falling in Love

Rodney Marsalis, solo flugelhorn

Silent Night

Sleigh Ride

Holiday Sing-a-long

Earth Wind and Fire Medley

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

arr. Anthony D'Iorio

Elvis Presley arr. Tim Olt

Franz Xaver Gruber

arr. JD Shaw

arr. Tim Olt

Program subject to change.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass

The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass is composed of some of America's top brass musicians dedicated to bringing the joyous experience of great music to a wide range of audiences.

The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass is a family owned and operated business that had its beginnings on the streets of New Orleans. On the advice of Ellis Marsalis, the group created a concert format that breaks the usual barriers between genres and strives to create connection between the audience and performers.

A group that always reflects the diverse makeup of men and women in the American culture, RMPBB is dedicated to the notion that music is a gift to be enjoyed by everyone. The group is especially dedicated to reaching out to the world's youth and inspiring them to reach for their dreams. A veritable "dream team" of virtuoso brass players, associate artists have appeared on the world's most prominent stages and performed with such groups as the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Baltimore Symphony, the São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra, the Imani Winds, Canadian Brass, Empire Brass, Dallas Brass and Boston Brass. The group burst onto the music scene with a debut performance in Philadelphia's Kimmel Center in Verizon Hall, a residency for the Mann Center for the Performing Arts and a special feature on the National Public Radio show, *All Things Considered*.

In recent years, the group has been invited to perform in major music halls around the world including China's National Center for the Performing Arts, Tangelwood's Seiji Ozawa Hall and several prominent halls in Brazil and Italy. Performances range from solo trumpet, to brass quintet, to the full ten-piece ensemble with percussion. Their programs include holiday concerts, family concerts, traditional brass concerts with optional organ or choir and themed concerts (American music, Baroque-Renaissance, contemporary popular music, Brothers on

the Battlefield: The Power of Love, the Francis Johnson Project, the John Philip Sousa Project, etc.), as well as specially designed residencies.

Rodney Marsalis (Trumpet)

The sound of Marsalis' trumpet has reverberated throughout the world. Whether playing baroque piccolo trumpet or interpreting works commissioned especially for him, his artistry has been enthusiastically enjoyed in the United States, France, Spain, Germany, England, Greece, Rumania, Japan, Taiwan and Korea. He has been praised by music critics from *Fanfare Magazine*, *American Record Guide*, *Records International Catalog* and other international publications for his evocative interpretation, impeccable virtuosity and beauty of sound.

A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, Marsalis has worked under the guidance of world renowned conductors such as Leonard Bernstein, Michael Tilson Thomas, Gerard Schwarz, James DePreist, John Williams, Jesus Lopez-Cobos and Christopher Hogwood. He was awarded a fellowship at the Tanglewood Music Center where he was invited to return for a second summer during which he was awarded the Seiji Ozawa Award for Outstanding Musicianship.

Marsalis was born in New Orleans, Louisiana where he began his musical studies at the age of six. When he was 11 years of age, he began taking classical trumpet lessons with his cousin, Wynton Marsalis. Referred to as a "trumpet prodigy" his solo debut was at the age of 15 with the New Orleans Symphony. After having won various solo competitions, he received national attention at the age of 19 performing as soloist with the Boston Pops Orchestra. He has also performed as soloist with the San Diego Symphony, the Tenerife Symphony, the Orquestra Sinfonica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and many orchestras throughout the United States and Europe.

Marsalis has made several world premiere recordings including *Sonata for Trumpet and Piano* (Albany Records) by Adolphus Hailstork and *In Our Own House* (Albany Records) by composer Alvin Singleton with saxophonist Branford Marsalis. In 1998, Marsalis made the premiere and critically acclaimed recording of Franz Waxman's *Carmen Fantasy for Trumpet and Orchestra* with conductor Lawrence Foster on the Koch International record label.

Rodney's debut solo trumpet CD *Spirit of the Trumpeter* (Albany Records) has been dubbed as a "best seller". It is a compilation of some of the most popular recital works for trumpet and piano. Regarding *Spirit of the Trumpeter*, former cornet virtuoso and reknown conductor Gerard Schwarz said, "Rodney is a superb trumpet player and musician. I have no doubt that this CD will make an important addition to the catalogue of sublime trumpet performances."

In the course of his more than 20 years as an orchestral musician, Marsalis was the winner of several national and international competitions for titled orchestral chairs including positions with The New Orleans Symphony, The Colorado Symphony Orchestra, The San Diego Symphony Orchestra, The Orquestra Sinfonica de Tenerife, The Barcelona Symphony and The Richmond Symphony. After completing a one-year trial period, he was awarded the Principal Trumpet position with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. During his tenure as Principal Trumpet with the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, he was appointed head of the trumpet department at the Escuela Superior de Musica de Catalunya (ESMUC), Spain's leading music conservatory. He has recently been invited to give master classes at the Julliard School, The North Carolina School for the Arts, the National Trumpet Competition and the International Trumpet Guild Conference. He has also been invited to teach at the Eastern Music Festival and the Interlochen Music Academy.

Marsalis can be heard as Soloist and Principal Trumpet on more than thirty different recordings with labels such as Decca, Naxos, Koch International Classics and Albany Records. His year is split between his duties as Principal Trumpet with Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and various master class and solo engagements in the United States and abroad.