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Pittsburgh Symphony Announces Wynton Marsalis' *All Rise*

Featuring Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Symphony led by Benjamin Northey

PITTSBURGH, PA — On Saturday, May 9, 2026, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) will present **Wynton Marsalis' *All Rise*** in a one-night-only performance at Heinz Hall led by conductor **Benjamin Northey** and bringing together the world-renowned **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis (JLCO)**, the **PSO**, the **Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh** with **Music Director Daniel Singer**, and the **Lift Every Voice Unity Choir** under the direction of **Nikki Porter**. Presented in partnership with **MCG Jazz**, Marsalis' genre-bending symphony fuses jazz, blues, classical, and world music into a monumental work of struggle and redemption. Tickets will be on pre-sale to PSO and MCG Jazz subscribers starting July 23 and will be available to the public on July 29 alongside all single tickets for the PSO's classical season.

First premiered by the New York Philharmonic in 1999, *All Rise* is one of Marsalis' most ambitious and beloved compositions. Structured in the form of a 12-bar blues and infused with

rhythms and idioms from around the globe (including ancient Greek harmonies, New Orleans brass bands, clave rhythms, samba, Chinese parade bands and more), the piece explores, in the words of Marsalis, the question of "how [we] will translate our differences into a collective creativity."

"There could hardly be a piece more emblematic of the PSO's vision for great music in every life than *All Rise*," said Melia Tourangeau, President & CEO of the PSO. "On May 8, we'll have over 200 artists on the Heinz Hall stage, drawn from the PSO, JLCO, and the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh—performing music inspired by such a wide range of world traditions. This is music that brings people together through sound, spirit, and history, and it's a thrilling moment for us and the Pittsburgh community."

MCG Jazz will be coordinating a variety of workshops and discussion groups leading up to the May 9 performance, exploring the musical and narrative themes of *All Rise*. In conjunction with the MCG Jazz 39th Season Artist-In-Residence, Tamara Tunie, these activities will take place at several community partner locations.

About Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO), comprising 15 of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players today, has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra since 1988 and spends over a third of the year on tour across the world. Featured in all aspects of Jazz at Lincoln Center's programming, this remarkably versatile orchestra performs and leads educational events in New York, across the U.S. and around the globe; in concert halls; dance venues; jazz clubs; public parks; and with symphony orchestras; ballet troupes; local students; and an ever-expanding roster of guest artists. Under Music Director Wynton Marsalis, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra performs a vast repertoire, from rare historic compositions to Jazz at Lincoln Center-commissioned works, including compositions and arrangements by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson, Thelonious Monk, Mary Lou Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Goodman, Charles Mingus, and current and former Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra members Wynton Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Ted Nash, Victor Goines, Sherman Irby, Chris Crenshaw, and Carlos Henriquez.

About Wynton Marsalis

Wynton Marsalis is the Managing and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1961 to a musical family, Mr. Marsalis was gifted his first trumpet at age 6 by Al Hirt. By 8, he began playing in the famed Fairview Baptist Church Band led by Danny Barker. Yet it was not until he turned 12 that Marsalis began his formal training on the trumpet. Subsequently, Wynton began performing in bands all over the city, from the New Orleans Philharmonic and New Orleans Youth Orchestra to a funk band called the Creators. His passion

for music rapidly escalated. As a young teenager fresh out of high school, Wynton moved to New York City in 1979 to attend The Juilliard School to study classical music. Once there, however, he found that jazz was calling him. His career quickly launched when he traded Juilliard for Art Blakey's band, The Jazz Messengers. By 19, Wynton hit the road with his own band and has been touring the world ever since. From 1981 to date, Wynton has performed 4,777 concerts in 849 distinct cities and 64 countries around the world. Mr. Marsalis made his recording debut as a leader in 1982 and has since recorded 110 jazz and classical albums, four alternative records, and released five DVDs. In total, he has recorded 1,539 songs at the time of this writing. Marsalis is the winner of 9 GRAMMY Awards, and his oratorio *Blood on the Fields* was the first jazz composition to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music. He's the only musician to win a GRAMMY Award in two categories, jazz and classical, during the same year (1983, 1984).

About the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh

Founded in 1908, the Grammy-nominated Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh (MCP) is critically acclaimed as one of the finest choruses in the country and has been the choral partner of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for nearly a century. The chorus is composed of a 20-member professional core along with dedicated volunteer singers from diverse backgrounds and professions, united by a shared passion for creating powerful and deeply moving musical experiences. In addition to its annual performances with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, MCP is known for presenting innovative and genre-defying programs that engage new audiences and explore the breadth of the choral art—from reimagined folk and rock traditions to collaborations with dynamic artistic partners. MCP also nurtures the next generation of choral singers through its educational program, the Junior Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh (JMCP), the region's premier high school choral training and performance ensemble.

About Benjamin Northey

Benjamin Northey is Chief Conductor of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Principal Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Conductor in Residence of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

He has made multiple guest appearances with major international orchestras including the London Philharmonic, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, the Malaysian Symphony Orchestra and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. He has toured internationally with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra including concert appearances at Chicago Symphony Hall and as co-conductor with Sir Andrew Davis at the Edinburgh Festival.

He appears regularly with all major Australian symphony orchestras and has conducted numerous productions for Opera Australia, New Zealand Opera, Victorian Opera, and State

Opera South Australia. Northey has collaborated with a wide range of leading artists, including Lang Lang, Maxim Vengerov, Pinchas Zukerman, Anne-Sofie von Otter, Wynton Marsalis, Kurt Elling, k.d. Lang and Lalah Hathaway.

Northey studied conducting at Finland's Sibelius Academy with Professors Leif Segerstam and Atso Almila after being accepted as the highest placed applicant in 2002. He completed his studies at the Stockholm Royal College of Music with Jorma Panula in 2006, following earlier conducting studies with John Hopkins OBE at the University of Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (2000–2002).

An active educator and passionate advocate for community and youth music organizations, in 2025 he was appointed Professor of Conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and Director of the Australian Conducting Academy, Australia's national training program for emerging conductors.

About MCG Jazz

Since its inception in 1987, the mission of MCG Jazz has been to preserve, present and promote the music, and celebrate Pittsburgh's rich jazz legacy. As one of the longest-running subscription-based jazz series in the country, our 350-seat concert hall has hosted thousands of concerts featuring legendary artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Ray Brown, Nancy Wilson, Herbie Hancock and Stanley Turrentine.

MCG Jazz has worked with countless K-12 schools, universities, and colleges to create teaching modules and tailored jazz education programs. The MCG Jazz record label has produced over 70 albums, five of which have won GRAMMY® Awards. The Jazz is Life® Archives of audio/video recordings, photographs, interviews and individual artist collections exists as an asset for future generations to help grow the audience for jazz and enhance the artform and its creators.

About the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

The internationally acclaimed Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) engages audiences of all ages through unparalleled live musical experiences, community collaborations, and educational programming that enrich every life with great music. The GRAMMY® Award-winning symphony has been led by worldwide acclaimed Music Director Manfred Honeck since 2008. Past music directors have included many of the greats, including Fritz Reiner, William Steinberg, André Previn, Lorin Maazel, and Mariss Jansons. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra has a long and illustrious history in the areas of recordings and live radio broadcasts dating back to the 1930s. Lauded as the Pittsburgh region's international cultural ambassador, PSO has been invited to be part of premiere venues and festivals throughout the world and has toured domestically and

internationally since 1896. Heinz Hall, PSO's home located at 600 Penn Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh, is also owned and operated by the PSO. Follow the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra online at pittsburghsymphony.org, and on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and YouTube.

With Gratitude

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is grateful for overall support from local and state government entities: Allegheny Regional Asset District, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Wynton Marsalis' All Rise
Saturday, May 9, 2026, 7:30PM
Heinz Hall

Benjamin Northey, conductor
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh

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