



Harris Center

Three Stages at Folsom Lake College

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AN EVENING WITH BRANFORD MARSALIS

Raised in a family where swinging was upbringing, the jazz great returns with his exceptional quartet

(November 20, 2018, Folsom, CA) The oldest son from the First Family of jazz, Branford Marsalis has stayed the course, refining and expanding both his talents and horizons. While classical music is a growing portion of his universe, he has toured with Sting, collaborated with the Grateful Dead and Bruce Hornsby, served as Musical Director of The Tonight Show and hosted NPR's Jazz Set. He returns to Stage One with his jazz quartet, featuring saxophonist Marsalis with pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis, and drummer Justin Faulkner.

AN EVENING WITH BRANFORD MARSALIS will take place on Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 7 pm. Tickets are \$28-\$48; Premium \$52. 50% Discount Available for Students with ID. Tickets are available online at www.harriscenter.net or from Harris Center Ticket Office at 916-608-6888 from 12 noon to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday, and two hours before show time. Parking is included in the price of the ticket. Harris Center is located on the west side of Folsom Lake College campus in Folsom, CA, facing East Bidwell Street.

From his early acclaim as a saxophonist bringing new energy and new audiences to the jazz art, Branford Marsalis has refined and expanded his talents and his horizons as a musician, composer, bandleader and educator – a 21st Century mainstay of artistic excellence.

Growing up in the rich environment of New Orleans as the oldest son of pianist and educator Ellis Marsalis, Branford was drawn to music along with siblings Wynton, Delfeayo and Jason. His first instrument, the clarinet, gave way to the alto and then the tenor and soprano saxophones when the teenage Branford began working in local bands. A growing fascination with jazz as he entered college gave him the basic tools

to obtain his first major jobs, with trumpet legend Clark Terry and alongside Wynton in Art Blakey's legendary Jazz Messengers.

When the brothers left to form the Wynton Marsalis Quintet, the world of uncompromising acoustic jazz was invigorated. Branford formed his own quartet in 1986 and, with a few minor interruptions in the early years, has sustained the unit as his primary means of expression. Known for the telepathic communication among its uncommonly consistent personnel, its deep book of original music replete with expressive melodies and provocative forms, and an unrivaled spirit in both live and recorded performances, the Branford Marsalis Quartet has long been recognized as the standard to which other ensembles of its kind must be measured. The Harris Center is proud to present the Quartet in an encore performance on Stage One.

Branford has not confined his music to the quartet context. In addition to guest turns with a legion of giants including Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Herbie Hancock and Sonny Rollins, he has excelled in duets with several major pianists, including his boyhood friend Harry Connick, Jr. and the longtime pianist in his quartet, Joey Calderazzo. Branford's first solo concert, at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral, is documented on his 2014 recording, *In My Solitude*.

His interest in classical music continues to expand. With a repertoire including works by Copland, Debussy, Glazunov, Ibert, Mahler, Milhaud, Rorem, Vaughan Williams, Villa-Lobos and Sally Beamish (who reconceived a work in progress, "Under the Wing of the Rock," to feature Branford's saxophone after hearing him perform one of her earlier pieces), Branford is frequently heard with leading symphony orchestras including those in Chicago, Detroit, Dusseldorf and North Carolina as well as the New York Philharmonic. He also served as Creative Director for the Cincinnati Symphony's Ascent series in 2012-13.

Broadway has also welcomed Branford's contributions. His initial effort, original music for a revival of August Wilson's *Fences*, garnered a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music in a Play and a Tony nomination for Best Original Score Written for the Theater. Branford also provided music for *The Mountaintop*, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Angela Bassett, and served as musical curator for the 2014 revival of *A Raisin in the Sun*. Branford's screen credits include the original music for *Mo' Better Blues* and acting roles in *School Daze* and *Throw Momma from the Train*.

His efforts to help heal and rebuild New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina mark him as an artist with an uncommonly effective social vision. Together with Harry Connick, Jr. and New Orleans Habitat for Humanity, Branford conceived and helped to realize The Musicians' Village, a community in the Upper Ninth Ward that provides homes to the displaced families of musicians and other local residents. At the heart of The Musicians' Village stands the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, a community center dedicated to preserving the vibrant New Orleans musical legacy containing state-of-the-art spaces for performance, instruction and recording.

Some might gauge Branford Marsalis's success by his numerous awards, including three Grammys and (together with his father and brothers) his citation as a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts. To Branford, however, these are only way stations along what continues to be one of the most fascinating and rewarding journeys in the world of music.

Great Shows. Up Close. In Folsom!

The Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College brings the community together to share in cultural experiences featuring the work of artists from throughout the region and around the world. Built and operated by the Los Rios Community College District, the \$50 million, state-of-the-art regional performing arts center boasts three intimate venues with outstanding acoustics, an art gallery, a recording studio, elegant teaching spaces, plenty of safe parking and all the other amenities of a world-class performing arts venue. Each year the Center hosts over 400 events attracting more than 150,000 annually.

Event Summary

What: **AN EVENING WITH BRANFORD MARSALIS**
When: Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 7 pm
Where: Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College
10 College Parkway
Folsom, CA 95630
Ticket Price: \$28-\$48; Premium \$52. 50% Discount Available for Students with ID
Tickets: www.HarrisCenter.net

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High resolution images available at <http://bit.ly/2iacUNX>