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Editor's Note: Images available [here](#).

Race, Culture & Jazz:

A Conversation with Wynton Marsalis, Ted Nash and Dr. Andrew Barnes

Presented by The Boeing Company

Thu, Jan 28 | 4 – 5 PM (live simulcast)

Mon, Feb 1 – Sun, Feb 28 (recorded presentation)



January 25, 2021 (Mesa, AZ) – Mesa Arts Center is thrilled to announce *Race, Culture & Jazz: A Conversation with Wynton Marsalis, Ted Nash and Dr. Andrew Barnes*. The talk explores how race and culture have influenced the development of jazz throughout its history, the meaning that “jazz” has to American Culture and the impact this music has had on our society.

Dr. Andrew Barnes (Arizona State University School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies) leads Wynton Marsalis, the Managing and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, and JLCO alto saxophonist Ted Nash in conversation as they explore these topics.

The live simulcast will be viewable at MesaArtsCenter.com/racecultureandjazz on **Thursday, January 28 at 4 PM**. The simulcast will be recorded and available for viewing on Mesa Arts Center’s website from Monday, February 1 through Sunday, February 28. Admission to the virtual event is FREE. For event details, visit MesaArtsCenter.com.

Race, Culture & Jazz: A Conversation with Wynton Marsalis, Ted Nash and Dr. Andrew Barnes is presented by **The Boeing Company**.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa. More information can be found at MesaArtsCenter.com.

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About Wynton Marsalis:

Wynton Marsalis (Trumpet) is the managing and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center and a world-renowned trumpeter and composer. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1961, Marsalis began his classical training on trumpet at age 12, entered The Juilliard School at age 17, and then joined Art Blakey

and the Jazz Messengers. He made his recording debut as a leader in 1982 and has since recorded more than 60 jazz and classical recordings, which have won him nine Grammy Awards. In 1983 he became the first and only artist to win both classical and jazz Grammys in the same year and repeated this feat in 1984. Marsalis is also an internationally respected teacher and spokesman for music education and has received honorary doctorates from dozens of U.S. universities and colleges. He has written six books; his most recent are *Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!*, illustrated by Paul Rogers and published by Candlewick Press in 2012, and *Moving to Higher Ground: How Jazz Can Change Your Life* with Geoffrey C. Ward, published by Random House in 2008. In 1997 Marsalis became the first jazz artist to be awarded the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in music for his oratorio *Blood on the Fields*, which was commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center. In 2001 he was appointed Messenger of Peace by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and he has also been designated cultural ambassador to the United States of America by the U.S. State Department through their Culture Connect program. Marsalis was instrumental in the *Higher Ground Hurricane Relief* concert, produced by Jazz at Lincoln Center. The event raised more than \$3 million for the Higher Ground Relief Fund to benefit the musicians, music industry-related enterprises, and other individuals and entities from the areas in Greater New Orleans who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Marsalis helped lead the effort to construct Jazz at Lincoln Center's home—Frederick P. Rose Hall—the first education, performance, and broadcast facility devoted to jazz, which opened in October 2004.

About Ted Nash:

Ted Nash (Alto and Soprano Saxophones, Flute, Clarinet, JLCO) enjoys an extraordinary career as a performer, conductor, composer, arranger, and educator. Born in Los Angeles into a musical family, Nash blossomed early, a "young lion" before the term became marketing vernacular. Nash has that uncanny ability to mix freedom with accessibility, blues with intellect, and risk-taking with clarity. His group Odeon has often been cited as a creative focus of jazz. Many of Nash's recordings have received critical acclaim and have appeared on the "best-of" lists in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Village Voice*, and *The Boston Globe*. His recordings, *The Mancini Project* and *Sidewalk Meeting*, have been placed on several "best-of- decade" lists. His album *Portrait in Seven Shades* was recorded by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and was released in 2010. The album is the first composition released by the JLCO featuring original music by a band member other than Wynton Marsalis. Nash's latest album, *Chakra*, was released in 2013. His most recent big band recording, *Presidential Suite: Eight Variations on Freedom*, won the 2017 Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album Grammy Award. The album includes "Spoken at Midnight," which won the 2017 Best Instrumental Composition Grammy Award. Nash's arrangement of "We Three Kings," featured on the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis' Big Band Holidays album, was nominated for the 2017 Best Instrumental Or A Cappella Arrangement Grammy Award.

About Dr. Andrew Barnes:

Andrew Barnes grew up in Saint Louis, Mo. He attended Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he graduated cum laude with a degree in history in 1975. He studied for his doctorate at Princeton University in New Jersey. He taught and received tenure at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He left Carnegie Mellon for his present position in the history department at Arizona State University in 1996. Barnes is the author of three monographs: "The Social Dimension of Piety: Associative Life and Religious Change in the Penitent Confraternities of Marseille 1499-1792" (Paulist Press, 1994); "Making Headway: The Introduction of Western Civilization in Colonial Northern Nigeria" (University of Rochester Press, 2009); "Global Christianity and the Black Atlantic: Tuskegee. He is presently working on a study of the Phelps Stokes Education Commissions and their impact in Africa during the era of European colonialism.

About Mesa Arts Center

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest multidisciplinary arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries in the MCA Museum, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment, performances and festivals, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. Mesa Arts Center's mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.