



# Sounding an up note for jazz

*Wynton Marsalis preserves the legacy of the greats*

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**T**he 1980s brought a booming resurgence to jazz in America. It was well documented, much ballyhooed and not without controversy.

And it was Wynton Marsalis, a young, upstart trumpeter from New Orleans, who led this thoroughly American music's comeback.

Some critics passed off Marsalis' efforts as a mere replication of what came before, while others praised his technical mastery of the instrument, his reverence of tradition and the blues.

Whatever one's view, the jazz world is better off for him. Established jazz musicians enjoyed a rebirth of popularity

and fresh faces established a solid future for the music. In the process, a treasure chest of names of great jazz innovators trickled back into America's vocabulary — among them Count Basie, Louis Armstrong, John Coltrane, Fats Waller, Charlie Parker, Bix Beiderbecke, Thelonious Monk, Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington — musicians who made weighty contributions to the evolution of the form.

The '90s bring new aspirations for Marsalis and like-minded jazz lovers. As artistic director, performer and leader of the 16-member Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Marsalis hopes to elevate America's jazz consciousness even higher. And he wants to take jazz to the societal level of classical music, which has well-funded orchestras to

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**ON STAGE:** *The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra performs at 8 tonight at Orchestra Hall, call 833-3700, and 8 p.m. Sunday at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, call 763-8587.*