



Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Jader Bignamini

Paradise Valley was the business district and entertainment center of a densely populated African American residential area in Detroit known as Black Bottom, from the 1920s through the 1950s. The Paradise Theatre opened in 1941 in the former Orchestra Hall, built for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in 1919, and was the place to hear jazz greats such as Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, and Dizzy Gillespie. Urban renewal programs and the construction of freeways in the 1960s abruptly halted life in Paradise Valley and the Black Bottom neighborhood, pushing residents out of their homes and businesses. By using an image of the Paradise Theatre as source for the cover design, this album commemorates the tragic disappearance of a neighborhood that once was among the biggest hubs of Black American music. The DSO returned to its historic home in 1989 and each season pays tribute to Orchestra Hall's legacy as a jazz destination through its Paradise Jazz Series.

Wynton Marsalis (b. 1961)

Blues Symphony (2009)

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | I. Born in Hope | 7. 41 |
| 2 | II. Swimming in Sorrow | 13. 09 |
| 3 | III. Reconstruction Rag | 10. 04 |
| 4 | IV. Southwestern Shakedown | 8. 08 |
| 5 | V. Big City Breaks | 4. 29 |
| 6 | VI. Danzon y Mambo, Choro y Samba | 11. 23 |
| 7 | VII. Dialogue in Democracy | 6. 32 |

Total playing time: 61. 26

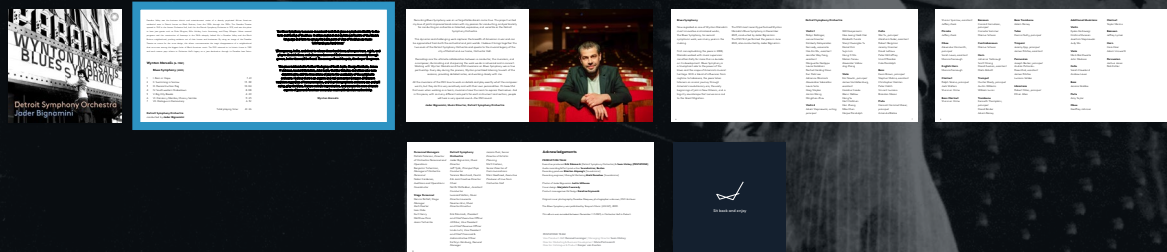
Detroit Symphony Orchestra
conducted by **Jader Bignamini**

The Blues Symphony is a seven-movement work that gives a symphonic identity to the form and feeling of the blues. It utilizes regional and stylistic particulars of the idiom's language and form to convey the basic point of view of the blues as music: 'Life hands you hard times.'

When you cry, holler, and shout to release those hard times; when you tease, cajole, and play to diminish them; and when you dance and find a common community through groove, better times will be found. The more profound the pain, the deeper the groove.

This piece is intended to further the legacy of Scott Joplin, George Gershwin, James P. Johnson, Leonard Bernstein, John Lewis, Gunther Schuller, and others who were determined to add the innovations of jazz to the vocabulary of the symphonic orchestra. I believe there is an organic and real connection between all Western traditions regardless of instrumentation, and that the symphonic orchestra can and will swing, play the blues, feature melodic improvisation, and execute the more virtuosic aspects of jazz and American vernacular music with absolute authenticity.

Wynton Marsalis



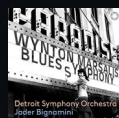
Recording *Blues Symphony* was an unforgettable dream come true. The project united my love of jazz's improvisational colors with my passion for conducting, and particularly for conducting an orchestra as talented, expressive, and versatile as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

This dynamic and challenging work captures the breadth of American music and can be appreciated from both the orchestral and jazz worlds. I believe it brings together the two souls of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and speaks to the musical legacy of the city of Detroit and our home, Orchestra Hall.

Recordings are the ultimate collaboration between a conductor, the musicians, and a composer, illuminating and sharpening the work we do in rehearsal and in concert. Working with Wynton Marsalis and the DSO musicians on *Blues Symphony* was a true partnership. Every day during the process, Wynton prioritized listening to each of the sessions, providing detailed notes, and working closely with me.

All the musicians of the DSO love to work on details and play exactly what the composer wants, but they do this very sensitively and with their own personalities. It's beautiful that even when working as a team, musicians have the room to express themselves. And in this piece, with so many different solo parts for each instrument and section, people will hear a very special sound—the DSO sound.

Jader Bignamini, Music Director, Detroit Symphony Orchestra



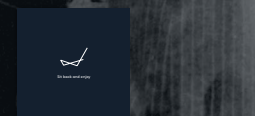
| Track | Composer | Conductor |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Blues Symphony | Wynton Marsalis | Jader Bignamini |
| 2. Blues Symphony | Wynton Marsalis | Jader Bignamini |
| 3. Blues Symphony | Wynton Marsalis | Jader Bignamini |
| 4. Blues Symphony | Wynton Marsalis | Jader Bignamini |
| 5. Blues Symphony | Wynton Marsalis | Jader Bignamini |
| 6. Blues Symphony | Wynton Marsalis | Jader Bignamini |
| 7. Blues Symphony | Wynton Marsalis | Jader Bignamini |
| 8. Blues Symphony | Wynton Marsalis | Jader Bignamini |
| 9. Blues Symphony | Wynton Marsalis | Jader Bignamini |
| 10. Blues Symphony | Wynton Marsalis | Jader Bignamini |



| Section | Player |
|----------------|--------|
| Flute | [Name] |
| Oboe | [Name] |
| Clarinet | [Name] |
| Bassoon | [Name] |
| Trumpet | [Name] |
| Trombone | [Name] |
| Baritone | [Name] |
| Euphonium | [Name] |
| Tuba | [Name] |
| Drum Set | [Name] |
| Double Bass | [Name] |
| Piano | [Name] |
| Electric Piano | [Name] |
| Electric Bass | [Name] |
| String Section | [Name] |

| Section | Player |
|----------------|--------|
| Flute | [Name] |
| Oboe | [Name] |
| Clarinet | [Name] |
| Bassoon | [Name] |
| Trumpet | [Name] |
| Trombone | [Name] |
| Baritone | [Name] |
| Euphonium | [Name] |
| Tuba | [Name] |
| Drum Set | [Name] |
| Double Bass | [Name] |
| Piano | [Name] |
| Electric Piano | [Name] |
| Electric Bass | [Name] |
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|----------------|--------|
| Flute | [Name] |
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| Bassoon | [Name] |
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| Trombone | [Name] |
| Baritone | [Name] |
| Euphonium | [Name] |
| Tuba | [Name] |
| Drum Set | [Name] |
| Double Bass | [Name] |
| Piano | [Name] |
| Electric Piano | [Name] |
| Electric Bass | [Name] |
| String Section | [Name] |



Blues Symphony

Now regarded as one of Wynton Marsalis's most innovative and colossal works, the Blues Symphony, his second symphonic work, was many years in the making.

First conceptualizing the piece in 2008, Marsalis worked with music supervisor Jonathan Kelly for more than a decade on its development. Blues Symphony is a triumphant ode to the power of the blues and the scope of America's musical heritage. With a blend of influences from ragtime to habanera, the piece takes listeners on a sonic journey through America's revolutionary era, the early beginnings of jazz in New Orleans, and a big city soundscape that serves as a nod to the Great Migration.

The DSO most recently performed Wynton Marsalis's Blues Symphony in December 2023, conducted by Jader Bignamini. The DSO first performed the piece in June 2022, also conducted by Jader Bignamini.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Violin 1

Robyn Bollinger, *concertmaster*
 Kimberly Kaloyanides Kennedy, *associate*
 Hai-Xin Wu, *assistant*
 Jennifer Wey Fang, *assistant*
 Marguerite Deslippe
 Laurie Goldman
 Rachel Harding Klaus
 Eun Park Lee
 Adrienne Rönmark
 Alexandros Sakarellos
 Laura Soto
 Greg Staples
 Jiamin Wang
 Mingzhao Zhou

Violin 2

Adam Stepniewski, *acting principal*

Will Haapaniemi

Hae Jeong Heidi Han
 Elizabeth Furuta
 Sheryl Hwangbo Yu
 Daniel Kim
 Sujin Lim
 Hong-Yi Mo
 Marian Tanau
 Alexander Volkov
 Jing Zhang

Viola

Eric Nowlin, *principal*
 James VanValkenburg, *assistant*
 Caroline Coade
 Glenn Mellow
 Hang Su
 Hart Hollman
 Han Zheng
 Mike Chen
 Harper Randolph

Cello

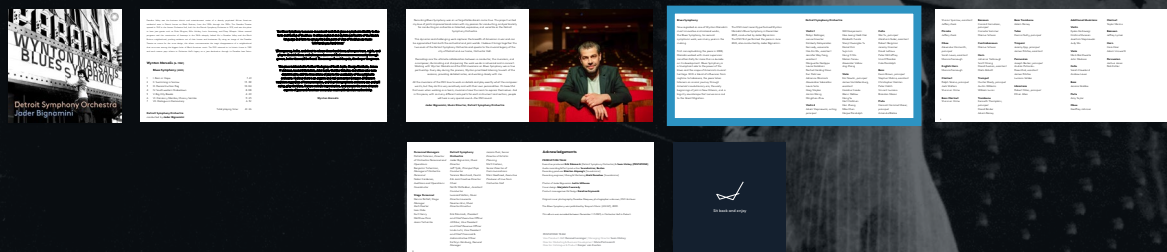
Wei Yu, *principal*
 Abraham Feder, *assistant*
 Robert Bergman
 Jeremy Crosmer
 David LeDoux
 Peter McCaffrey
 Una O'Riordan
 Cole Randolph

Bass

Kevin Brown, *principal*
 Stephen Molina, *assistant*
 Christopher Hamlen
 Peter Hatch
 Vincent Luciano
 Brandon Mason

Flute

Hannah Hammel Maser, *principal*
 Amanda Blaikie



Sharon Sparrow, *assistant*
Jeffery Zook

Piccolo
Jeffery Zook

Oboe
Alexander Kinmonth, *principal*
Sarah Lewis, *assistant*
Monica Fosnaugh

English Horn
Monica Fosnaugh

Clarinet
Ralph Skiano, *principal*
Jack Walters
Shannon Orme

Bass Clarinet
Shannon Orme

Bassoon
Conrad Cornelison, *principal*
Cornelia Sommer
Marcus Schoon

Contrabassoon
Marcus Schoon

Horn
Johanna Yarbrough
Scott Strong
David Everson, *assistant*
Mark Abbott

Trumpet
Hunter Eberly, *principal*
Austin Williams
William Lucas

Trombone
Kenneth Thompkins, *principal*
David Binder
Adam Rainey

Bass Trombone
Adam Rainey

Tuba
Dennis Nulty, *principal*

Timpani
Jeremy Epp, *principal*
James Ritchie, *assistant*

Percussion
Joseph Becker, *principal*
Andrés Pichardo-Rosenthal, *assistant*
James Ritchie
Luciano Valdes

Librarians
Robert Stiles, *principal*
Ethan Allen

Additional Musicians

Violin
Kyoko Kashiwagi
Cristina Muresan
Joachim Stepniewski
Judy Wu

Viola
Mark Braithwaite
John Madison

Cello
Sarah Cleveland
Andrew Laven

Bass
Jessica Grabbe

Flute
Amy Taylor

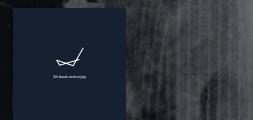
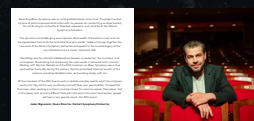
Oboe
Geoffrey Johnson

Clarinet
Taylor Marino

Bassoon
Jeffrey Lyman

Horn
Cara Kizer
Adam Unsworth

Percussion
Joshua Jones
Rob Kistler



Personnel Managers

Patrick Peterson, *Director of Orchestra Personnel and Operations*
 Benjamin Tisherman, *Manager of Orchestra Personnel*
 Nolan Cardenas, *Auditions and Operations Coordinator*

Stage Personnel

Dennis Rottell, *Stage Manager*
 Zach Deater
 Issac Eide
 Kurt Henry
 Matthew Pons
 Jason Tschantre

Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Jader Bignamini, *Music Director*
 Jeff Tyzik, *Principal Pops Conductor*
 Terence Blanchard, *Fred A. Erb Jazz Creative Director Chair*
 Na'Zir McFadden, *Assistant Conductor*
 Leonard Slatkin, *Music Director Laureate*
 Neeme Järvi, *Music Director Emeritus*

Erik Rönmark, *President and Chief Executive Officer*
 Jill Elder, *Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer*
 Linda Lutz, *Vice President and Chief Financial & Administrative Officer*
 Kathryn Ginsburg, *General Manager*

Jessica Ruiz, *Senior Director of Artistic Planning*
 Matt Carlson, *Senior Director of Communications*
 Marc Geelhoed, *Executive Producer of Live from Orchestra Hall*

Acknowledgements

PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive producers **Erik Rönmark** (Detroit Symphony Orchestra) & **Sean Hickey** (PENTATONE)
 Audio recording & Post-production **Soundmirror, Boston**
 Recording producer **Blanton Alspaugh** (Soundmirror)
 Recording engineer, Mixing & Mastering **Mark Donahue** (Soundmirror)

Photos of Jader Bignamini **Justin Milhouse**
 Cover design **Marjolein Coenrady**
 Product management & Design **Karolina Szymanik**

Original cover photography *Paradise Marquee*, photographer unknown, DSO Archives

The *Blues Symphony* was published by Skyayne's Music (ASCAP), 2009.

This album was recorded between December 1-3 2023, in Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

PENTATONE TEAM

Vice President A&R **Renaud Loranger** | Managing Director **Sean Hickey**
 Director Marketing & Business Development **Silvia Pietrosanti**
 Director Catalogue & Product **Kasper van Kooten**

