

## Wynton Marsalis – The Spiritual Side of Wynton Marsalis (2013)

Written by bluesever

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01 – *I Hear A Knockin' (Solo)* 02 – *All Rise XII I Am (Don't You Run From Me)* 03 – *If I Hold On* 04 – *Processional* 05 – *Psalm 26* 06 – *Awakening* 07 – *Hymn* 08 – *Precious Lord, Take My Hand (Previously Unreleased)* 09 – *In The Sweet Embrace Of Life Sermon Holy Ghost* 10 – *Flee As A Bird To The Mountain* 11 – *Sing On* 12 – *Benediction* 13 – *Oh We Have A Friend In Jesus* 14 – *To Higher Ground* 15 – *Pot Blessed Dinner* Musicians: Wynton Marsalis – trumpet, conductor Wessell Anderson - sax (alto) Wessell "Warmdaddy" Anderson - clarinet, sax (alto) Oscar Brashear - trumpet Shirley Caesar - vocals Nathan Carter - Choir Director Kimati Dinizulu - percussion Gideon Feldstein - clarinet (bass), sax (baritone) Bob Findley - trumpet Vincent Gardner - trombone Victor Goines - clarinet, clarinet (bass), sax (soprano), sax (tenor) Wycliffe Gordon - trombone, tuba Russell Gunn - trumpet Cynthia Hardy Soloist, Vocals Stefon Harris - marimba, percussion, vibraphone Carlito Henriquez - bass Roger Ingram - trumpet Sherman Irby - clarinet, sax (alto) Eric Lewis - piano Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra Russell Malone - guitar Delfeayo Marsalis - trombone Jason Marsalis - drums Morgan State University Choir Ted Nash - flute, sax (alto), sax (soprano) The Northridge Singers of California State University At Northridge The Paul Smith Singers Marcus Printup - trumpet Eric Reed - piano Bill Reichenbach - trombone Herlin Riley - drums, tambourine Stephen Riley - sax (tenor) Marcus Roberts - piano Esa-Pekka Salonen - conductor Jaz Sawyer - drums Jamil Sharif - trumpet Byron J. Smith - Choir Conductor Paul Smith - Choir Director Don Vappie - banjo Reginald Veal - bass, trombone Ron Westray - trombone Michael White - clarinet Marion Williams - vocals Todd Williams - sax (soprano), sax (tenor) Cassandra Wilson - vocals

As a New Orleans native, trumpeter/composer Wynton Marsalis has long incorporated a wide array of spiritual music into his own straight-ahead jazz. Even his earliest recordings, such as *Black Codes (From the Underground)* and *The Majesty of the Blues*, evinced the influence of gospel music, religious hymns, and New Orleans funeral processionals. Though raised in the Catholic church, Marsalis' professed take on religion has always been a holistic invocation of God, a sense of spirituality that connects all human beings -- at least as far as his music and liner notes have revealed. Inspired by the social activism of Martin Luther King, Jr., and directly influenced by the spiritually and socially conscious jazz of John Coltrane (*A Love Supreme*) and

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Duke Ellington (Sacred Concerts), Marsalis began writing his own explicitly spiritual-themed compositions beginning with 1994's *In This House, On This Morning*. The 2013 compilation *The Spiritual Side of Wynton Marsalis* brings together tracks off that album, as well as other divinely themed tracks Marsalis recorded during the '90s and 2000s. Formatted to evoke the rhythms and flow of a New Orleans funeral function, the compilation works as a soulful overview of this vital side of Marsalis' career. Included here are both small and large ensemble recordings from such albums as 1997's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Blood on the Fields*, 1999's *Reeltime*, 2002's *All Rise*, and more. ---Matt Collar, Rovi

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