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ARTS

Marsalis Trio to jazz University

By Mike Freeman
Emerald Contributor

The Cultural Forum has done it again. Tonight, the Branford Marsalis Trio performs at Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th St., kicking off the 1991-92 Cultural Forum Concert Series.

The trio will perform two shows, one at 7:30 p.m. and the other at 10 p.m.

The saxophonist, a mere 31-years-old, is the eldest of the famed Marsalis progeny which includes younger brother Wynton, another great in the jazz world.

Yet, Branford differs from his brother's musical endeavors with his crossover into the realm of R & B, popular and even rap styles, all while staying keenly aware of his jazz roots.

Marsalis has recently been in the spotlight with the recording of the soundtrack for Spike Lee's *Mo' Better Blues*, on which he performed, co-wrote and co-produced with Lee and others. He also performed with Sting in his 1988 *Nothing Like the Sun* tour as well as on *Dream of the Blue Turtles* and *Bring on the Night* albums.

In addition to this work, Marsalis continued to produce his own albums, including the forthcoming *The Beautiful Ones*. He also performed at the Freedomfest honoring Nelson Mandela and made appearances on *Saturday Night Live* and *The Arsenio Hall Show*.

In the midst of all this, he has also managed to play with some of music's greats, such as Harry Connick, Jr., Crosby Stills & Nash, the Grateful Dead, Herbie Hancock, Dizzy Gillespie and the late Miles Davis.

So how does a stop in Eugene figure into the schedule?

Marsalis' appearances on the West Coast are the last legs of his U.S. tour with performances in Washington and California. Then, in mid-October, he'll head for Europe.

"I look for students and with the increasing interest in jazz, I thought it was important to get the



Courtesy photo

Acclaimed saxophonist Branford Marsalis will perform two shows tonight to kickoff the Cultural Forum's 1991-92 Concert Series.

best name possible," said Jason Miller, national music coordinator for the Cultural Forum.

And it certainly seems he has.

"Branford Marsalis' music is more for this generation of students and turns them onto more classic jazz," Miller said.

In a recent *Newsday* article, Marsalis maintained, "...There ain't nothin' new in twelve notes. Only thing that's new is perspective."

"If the person has a unique perspective, that's what makes it 'new.'"

Tickets for the shows, available at the door, are \$16 for students and \$18 for the general public.

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