

LIONEL HAMPTON BIG BAND FEATURING JASON MARSALIS: INFORMATION

HISTORY & ORGANIZATION

- The Band is comprised mainly of musicians who played with Lionel Hampton himself. The Lionel Hampton Estate, eager to have the Big Band reactivate, granted permission in March of 2015 to launch the Lionel Hampton Big Band featuring Jason Marsalis, with Christian Fabian, Cleave Guyton Jr and Lance Bryant as co-leaders.
 - Jason Marsalis ([here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)) is from the Marsalis Jazz family (Ellis, Wynton, Branford, Delfeayo)
 - Leaders of the Band are: Cleave Guyton Jr ([here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), Lance Bryant ([here](#) and [here](#)) and Christian Fabian ([here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).
- All the Band Leaders played with Lionel Hampton; Lance was the Lionel Hampton Orchestra Musical Director and Principal Arranger, Cleave was the last Musical Director of the Band, and Christian remains the Bass Chair of the last Big Band led by Lionel Hampton.
- The Band performs with 16 musicians or 10 musicians

ONLINE

Current Clips

[YouTube Channel](#)

Information

[Facebook](#)

[Lionel Hampton Database](#)

[On-demand international booking through Stagelink](#)

Classic Hampton Video

[Cleave Guyton Jr & Lionel Hampton Big Band: Boogie Woogie](#)

[Cleave Guyton Jr & LH Big Band: Flying Home](#)

[Jason Marsalis & LH Big Band: Atlanta Jazz Festival 1](#)

[Jason Marsalis & LHBB: Atlanta Jazz Festival 2](#)

[LHBB & Lance Bryant at the Kennedy Center](#)

[Lance Bryant, Christian Fabian & Cleave Guyton Jr with the LHBB](#)

[Star-studded history of the Lionel Hampton Big Band, now featuring Jason Marsalis](#)

THE LIONEL HAMPTON BIG BAND featuring JASON MARSALIS: BIOS



In 1990 Lance began his decade-long relationship with the **Lionel Hampton Orchestra** and in 1993 became the **Orchestra's Musical Director and Principal Arranger**. Lance Bryant comes out of Markham, Illinois, and studied saxophone, composition and arranging at **Berklee College of Music** and later with Frank Foster, the former director of the Count Basie Orchestra and Bruce Adolphe of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society. Lance also made his film debut in Spike Lee's *Malcolm X* and traveled extensively with **Phyllis Hyman, Jon Hendricks, Pete "LaRocca" Sims, Wallace Roney, Abdullah Ibrahim, Bootsy Collins, James Williams** and others. In 2000, Lance performed in the Tony-Nominated Broadway production of *Swing!* as an onstage musician. Other notable projects include: **For the Love of Jazz** on Mojazz Records (Lionel Hampton) and **DemBones** and **Simply Natural** on MaxJazz Records for Grammy nominated vocalist **Carla Cook** and many more. Lance is currently performing with the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** on the Broadway musical hit *After Midnight*, as well as touring with South African pianist **Abdullah Ibrahim** and the **Count Basie Orchestra**.



Christian Fabian was born in Sweden, and moved to the US in the '90s to attend **Berklee College**. In New York he plays with **Mike Longo's NY State of the Art Jazz Ensemble** and around the metro area. With Jason Marsalis he and the other members of **The Native Jazz Quartet**, a band he co-founded, toured as **Jazz Ambassadors for the US State Department** in 2013 and 2014. Before receiving his scholarship at Berklee, Christian studied at **Maastricht Conservatory** in The Netherlands, recorded three albums with his band *Time Design*, and performed throughout Europe: Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Hungary. Lionel Hampton selected him as **bassist for the Lionel Hampton Big Band in 1996**, and he remains the bass chair of the Band. Other artists he has performed with include **Jimmy Owens, Gary Burton, Danny Gottlieb, Lewis Nash, John La Porta, Elvin Jones, Cheryl Bentyne, Ed Thigpen, Makoto Ozone, Chaka Khan, Bob Mintzer, Charlie Mariano, Claudio Roditi, Rick Margitza and Jon Hendricks**. His compositions earned two awards and three nominations with **Hollywood Music in Media in 2008 and 2009 for Best Jazz Artist**. His duo with ukelele star **Herb Otha** produced the **Japanese hit CD Stardust 4 Strings** on JVC. Christian's band *Fabian Zone Trio* has released six CDs since 2006 and reached **#1 on Music Choice, Top 10 on Jazz Radio for Canada and Top 20 on Jazz Week 3 times**.



Cleave Guyton is a professional musician who plays the saxophones, flutes and clarinet. He has worked with **Aretha Franklin, Abdullah Ibrahim, Joe Henderson, Stanley Turrentine, Nat Adderley, Abby Lincoln, The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Jon Hendricks, The Ray Charles Orchestra, Lionel Hampton, The Count Basie Orchestra, The Cab Calloway Orchestra, Little Jimmy Scott, Spike Lee, Joe Williams, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Ronny Jordan, The Mingus band, Cleo Laine, Chaka Khan, The Boys Choir** and many more.



Jason is the son of pianist and music educator **Ellis Marsalis** and his wife Dolores, and the youngest sibling of **Wynton, Branford and Delfeayo**. By age six, Jason was taking lessons from the legendary New Orleans drummer **James Black**. Jason was progressing so rapidly as a drummer that in 1984 his father started using him consistently on engagements. In 1991, he auditioned and was accepted at the **New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts High School (NOCCA)**. In 1995, Marsalis joined a new group lead by virtuoso pianist **Marcus Roberts**, while studying composition with notable classical composer **Roger Dickerson**. During this time Jason was playing with **Joe Henderson, Lionel Hampton, CasaSamba, Neslort, Dr. Michael White**, and in 1998 he co-founded the Latin-jazz group **Los Hombres Calientes**. In 2009, the Marsalis Family received the **NEA Jazz Masters Award** and were honored at the **White House and the Kennedy Center**. In 2010, Christian Fabian called him to record with drummer Ed Littlefield and pianist Reuel Lubag on two records, *Fabian's West Coast Session* and *Littlefield's Walking Between Worlds*. That collaboration inspired the formation of **The Native Jazz Quartet**, which recorded **NJQ Stories in 2012** and toured for the US State Department. The Quartet transforms native melodies into jazz arrangements. In 2013, Marsalis produced **In a World of Mallets** as a leader on vibes. The album went to **Number 1 on the CMJ radio charts**.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Have You Heard About the Sold-Out Shows & Standing Ovations for the New Hampton Band?

In case you haven't, they've been playing sold-out shows from coast to coast, with audiences clamoring for encores, and clubs eager to book the Band back. We are sure that you, like everyone who has heard this Band will be as excited and inspired by this music as some of the folks quoted here: People from a wide range, transcending age and gender—21-year old Asian students to 94-year-old jazz aficionados:

"I thought the concert will be boring and make people fall asleep. Oppositely, it entertained me...After I heard jazz, I felt so free and soulful"—Erin Chan

"Even though I had never heard any of these songs before, I felt like I was watching the real Lionel Hampton Big Band from the way they were performing...the songs also made me want to get up and start dancing"— Marco luele

"Just saw these guys tear it up at Yoshi's last night—amazing!!!"—Adam Reed Wiscomb

"Yall killed it in Oakland!!! Thank you guys soooooo much! Really, really great!!!!!!!!!"—Howard Wiley

The new Lionel Hampton Big Band features Jason Marsalis and world-class musicians who played with Hamp himself: Cleave Guyton, Jr, Lance Bryant, and Christian Fabian. "Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Buddy Rich, Charlie Parker, Charles Mingus, Quincy Jones, Oscar Peterson, Dizzie Gillespie—they all played with Hamp" says Lance Bryant, the last musical director for Lionel Hampton. "Now new audiences are finding out what made him so popular. We know the secret—we all played with him—and we do all the original arrangements that made him a star."

Christian Fabian plays with Mike Longo's New York State of the Art Jazz Ensemble in New York City, is a jazz ambassador for the US State Department with his band The Native Jazz Quartet, and plays to SRO clubs in Japan with ukelele player Herb Otha. Jason Marsalis, of the Marsalis jazz dynasty (recipients of the NEA Jazz Masters award), plays all over the world with his own bands and with Marcus Roberts. Cleave Guyton has played with Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Dizzy Gillespie and many more.

Lance Bryant, Jason Marsalis, Cleave Guyton Jr and Christian Fabian all have great stories about playing with Lionel Hampton and funny anecdotes about life as jazz musicians. To book an entertaining and informative interview please call (646) 522-4120 or email

chrisfab@hotmail.com .

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