

“Winning With Wynton”

By Jay Hershenson

What can one say about Wynton Learson Marsalis that has not already been said;
It's a challenge indeed, but let's not get too far ahead.

So we start with your name, the proud family of Marsalis;
A constellation of musical stars, shining more brightly than the Aurora Borealis!

Now some say your brilliance is derived from family genes;
But others credit that you grew up in New Orleans!

A poem like this will have to be overt;
So some will say it started with the trumpet your father gave to you from Al Hirt.

Now is it a challenge to come up with a rhyme for Wynton?
That's easy for a man so often celebrated by President Bill Clinton.

And Learson is simply a distinguished middle name;
It fits perfectly with your well-earned fame.

Nine Grammys, a Pulitzer, National Arts Medals, recognition resolutions filled with lengthy whereas;
You've defined music in so many ways; and given the world the very best of jazz.

Toured in over 70 countries and nearly 850 cities we can count;
Millions of record albums that continue to mount!

And tonight, we celebrate your connectivity to Pops;
Because you've always made sure that Pops is Tops.

As we honor you tonight, his spirit is filling the room;
His music is with us, his flowers will bloom.

Wynton, yours is a grand legacy with Louis you proudly share;
I can hear him right now, saying two words,

Oh yeah!