

## Marcus Belgrave

### Visiting Professor of Jazz Trumpet

Marcus Belgrave is Visiting Professor of Jazz Trumpet at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. A composer, arranger, trumpeter, recording artist, and producer, Belgrave first earned recognition at the age of 18, when he performed a solo in *Alexander's Ragtime Band* on the album *The Genius of Ray Charles*. A native of Chester, Pennsylvania, Belgrave learned music from his father, a bugler in World War I. A versatile performer who plays avant-garde and traditional New Orleans jazz, blues, and ragtime, Belgrave has performed with Max Roach, Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Mingus, Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr., Aretha Franklin, Wynton Marsalis, and Dizzy Gillespie.

Belgrave is also heard on many of Motown Records' most successful recordings, including *Dancing in the Street*, *The Way You Do the Things You Do*, and *My Girl*. Writer Allan Slutsky interviewed Belgrave for his book *Standing in the Shadows of Motown*, which was the basis of Paul Justman's film of the same name. Belgrave performs in the film with the Funk Brothers—previously unheralded Motown musicians who were called “the soul behind the sound” and who were the subjects of the film.

Belgrave is an original member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and has toured with the group since 1988. His performances on more than 30 recordings can be heard on such labels as Arabesque, Hip Hop, Blue Note, Atlantic, Columbia, and Detroit Jazz Musicians Co-op Productions. Among his recordings are the critically acclaimed *Marcus Belgrave with Detroit's Jazz Piano Legacy, Volume 1*, with Tommy Flanagan and Geri Allen; *The Best of Ray Charles*; *Jazz at Lincoln Center*; and *Marcus Belgrave Presents*.

Belgrave is known for his dedication to youth education. He is cofounder of the jazz studies program at the Detroit Metro Arts Complex and the Jazz Development Workshop in Detroit, and he was a founding faculty member of jazz studies at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Pianist Geri Allen, bassist Robert Hurst, and saxophonist Kenny Garrett are only a few of the many young talented musicians whom Marcus has inspired and nurtured. Belgrave can be heard on their recordings, such as Allen's *The Nurturer* and *Maroons*, and Hurst's *Robert Hurst Presents Robert Hurst*.

Because of his outstanding achievements as a jazz performer and educator and his continuous contribution to the jazz community, Belgrave has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the Arts Midwest Jazz Master Award (1991), ArtServe Michigan Governor's Award for Arts & Culture (1994), Louis Armstrong Award (1995), and the Benny Golson Jazz Master Award (2002) from the Howard University Jazz Ensemble. He was named the first Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Jazz Creative Director Chair of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

In 2007, Belgrave collaborated with other jazz studies faculty members to produce *Beauty Surrounds Us* for the Oberlin Conservatory's new label, Oberlin Music. His composition, *All My Love*, can be heard on the recording.