

W. Marshall Sealy, Horn

A native of New York City, Marshall Sealy believes passionately in the Horn and considers himself a Horn singer. He describes his Horn freelance career as “a fulfilling profession playing classical, jazz and world music”. Marshall began his Horn study at the age of 8 and as a young musician, he performed with the Long Island Youth Orchestra and attended Manhattan School of Music and Ithaca College, where he was awarded music and soccer scholarships. He also developed a successful second career as a master craftsman of brass instrument repair, restoration and custom modification.

His extensive and varied performing career has included the orchestras of the Opera Company of Boston, Boston Lyric Opera, Peter Nero and the Philly Pops, the internationally acclaimed Les Miserables Brass Band, Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, and Boston Jazz Composers Orchestra. In addition, he has been a soloist with the Plovdiv Symphony (Bulgaria), the Brooklyn Symphony (NY), and the United States Air Force Band of Liberty. He has toured with the Salute to Vienna Orchestra, Slavic Soul Party Brass Band, and the John Philip Sousa Band.

Marshall has played with the show orchestras of Tony Bennett, Joni Mitchell, Bernadette Peters, and the pit orchestras of Dance Theatre of Harlem and Alvin Ailey Dance Company. He has also performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Gateways Festival Orchestra, Soulful Symphony, and Orquesta Filarmonica de Jalisco (Guadalajara, Mexico).

His experience in Broadway pit orchestras has included Beauty and the Beast, Jekyll & Hyde, The Lion King, and the national tours of Evita and Porgy and Bess. He has also performed with such notable popular artists as Lester Bowie, J.J. Johnson, Max Roach, David Murray, Shirley Horn, Ray Charles, Paquito D’Rivera, and Steve Coleman.

Marshall has appeared with the live television studio orchestras of the Essence Awards, Emmy Awards, Grammy Awards, Christmas in Washington, Aretha Franklin, and the Whitney Houston HBO Special. He can be heard on recordings with Les Miserables Brass Band, George Russell, J.J. Johnson, Max Roach, Oliver Lake, Taj Mahal, Michael Jackson, Jay-Z, Nas, Will Smith, and Isaac Hayes (in the film score of Shaft), and the 2021 film score of Dear Evan Hansen (Universal Studios).

In addition to his performing career, Marshall has been Director of Music at the Harlem School of the Arts, Horn Professor at Berklee College of Music (Boston), and Horn Instructor at the International Music Camp (US/Canada). He has designed and delivered horn workshops and master classes in the United States, Mexico, Saint Lucia (W.I.), South Africa, Bulgaria, Serbia, the Dominican Republic, and China. His teachers have included Julius Watkins, Willie Ruff, Jerome Ashby, and Brooks Tillotson.

Marshall Sealy is the founder of Horn Song (jazz/world music horn quartet) and was a founding member of the internationally renowned Imani Winds. He owns and operates The Brass Shop, a brass instrument repair, restoration and modification business specializing in Horns. He is a Conn-Selmer Artist/Clinician and a maker of brass mouthpiece sculptures.