



the Revivalist

[home](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/) (<http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/>)

[about](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/about/) (<http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/about/>)

[features](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/features/) (<http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/features/>)

[news](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/news/) (<http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/news/>)

[musicians](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/musician-profiles/) (<http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/musician-profiles/>)

[events](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/events/) (<http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/events/>)

[reviews](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/reviews/) (<http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/reviews/>)

[media](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/media/) (<http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/category/media/>)

[okayplayer](http://okayplayer.com) (<http://okayplayer.com>)

Wynton Marsalis & Garth Fagan Present *Lighthouse/Lightning Rod*

I have to admit that when think “Wynton Marsalis” I don’t think “Brooklyn.” But this past weekend the jazz virtuoso came across the bridge and did several performances of his latest work. It was a collaborative suite of dance and music with Tony Award winning choreographer, [Garth Fagan](http://garthfagandance.org/) (<http://garthfagandance.org/>).



<http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/wp-content/uploads/wynton-and-garth.jpg>

This was not the first time the two artists joined forces. Twenty-one years ago Fagan and Marsalis jointly created *Griot New York*, a moving piece that explores the challenges and triumphs of contemporary city life. Excerpts from *Griot NYC* and their new piece *Lighthouse/Lightning Rod* were performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) this past weekend. The latter was commissioned by BAM to be a hallmark performance to commemorating their 150th Anniversary.

[join our mailing list](#)

Revivalist Email List

Name

Company

City

State

Email*

[search](#)

[featured videos](#)

And it was quite the event.

It had all the trappings of a high-cultural affair that features the performances of such famous artistic heavyweights. The night had a certain Manhattan panache to it. There were lots of black cars with drivers milling about, there were lots of ladies in ball gowns (there was a BAM Gala preceding the performance), and even composer Philip Glass, Captain Picard (actor played by actor Patrick Stewart), and the Brooklyn Nets were in attendance. For my low-key and easy-going Brooklyn sensibilities it was a lot to take in.

But all of that is besides the point.

The art that Fagan and Marsalis created was beautiful. From the first note and movement I kept thinking that this is not just a dance or jazz performance, but it truly is dance *theatre*. The presence of live musicians and the energy that they bring adds a dimension of interaction that is often absent from these types of dance concerts. The performance became 3D. Musicians were talking to dancers and the audience. The dancers were talking to musicians and the audience is responding to all of it. A sense of liveliness would be present in any such performance, but it is doubly true when the choreography is by Guggenheim Fellow Garth Fagan, the music is composed by multi-Grammy Award-winning Wynton Marsalis, and the music is performed live by The Wynton Marsalis Septet (comprised of Victor Goines – clarinet and saxophone; Wess Anderson – alto saxophone; Ali Jackson – drums; Eliot Mason – trombone; Dan Nimmer – piano; and Reginald Veal – bass). What is more, after the performance we were shocked to learn that three of three of the dancers we just watched contort their bodies and explode with energy were in the 50s: Steven Humphrey, Norwood Pennewell (P.J.), and Natalie Rogers.



<http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/wp-content/uploads/wynton-and-garth-2.jpg>

I had not seen their first work, *Griot New York*, but Fagan's attention to the micro-movements of his dancers – the twirl of the hand, the stretching of the foot, the arching of the back – was as dramatic as a center stage lift. And it was all set to the music that traveled the lineage of jazz to include waltzes, calypso, and swing each scene was rife

tags

[ben williams](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/ben-williams/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/ben-williams/) [Bilal](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/bilal/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/bilal/)

[Bitches Brew](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/bitches-brew/) [\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/bitches-brew/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/bitches-brew/) [Blue Note Records](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/blue-note-records/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/blue-note-records/) [Boyuan Gao](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/boyuan-gao/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/boyuan-gao/) [casey benjamin](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/casey-benjamin/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/casey-benjamin/) [Chick Corea](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/chick-corea/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/chick-corea/) [chris dave](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/chris-dave/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/chris-dave/) [Christian Scott](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/christian-scott/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/christian-scott/) [corey king](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/corey-king/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/corey-king/)

[derrick hodge](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/derrick-hodge/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/derrick-hodge/) [DROM](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/drom/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/drom/) [Duke Ellington](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/duke-ellington/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/duke-ellington/)

[Eric Sandler](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/eric-sandler/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/eric-sandler/)

[esperanza](#)

[spalding](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/esperanza-spalding/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/esperanza-spalding/)

[Gerald Clayton](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/gerald-clayton/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/gerald-clayton/)

[Gretchen Parlato](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/gretchen-parlato/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/gretchen-parlato/) [Guru](#)

[\(http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/guru/\)](http://revivalist.okayplayer.com/tag/guru/) [Herbie](#)

[Hancock](#)

