

Around Moab

The Branford Marsalis Quartet Will Perform Jazz Concert in Grand Junction

By Sharon Sullivan

As a teenager growing up in New Orleans, Branford Marsalis played alto, tenor and soprano saxophones in local bands. He went on to become a three-time Grammy Award-winning jazz musician, performing first with the legendary Jazz Messengers, then with the Wynton Marsalis Quintet, before forming his own band, the Branford Marsalis Quartet in 1986.

The Branford Marsalis Quartet will perform in Grand Junction, at Colorado Mesa University's Astoria Theatre, Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Marsalis is a band leader, featured classical soloist, and a film and Broadway composer. The National Endowment of the Arts has called Marsalis a "jazz master" and "an avatar of contemporary artistic excellence." He was nominated for an Emmy award in 2021, for the score he composed for the *Tulsa Burning* documentary.

Though known primarily for his jazz music, Marsalis also performs classical songs, and is a sought-after classical soloist with orchestras worldwide. He's even delved into the pop genre, with guest performances with the Grateful Dead, and collaborations with Sting.



Marsalis additionally served a stint as Musical Director of *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, and has hosted National Public Radio's syndicated Jazz Set program.

The Branford Marsalis Quartet has received two Grammy nominations – for *Upward Spiral*, and *The Secret Between the Shadow and the Soul*. The group's latest release, *Belonging*, on the band's new Blue Notes Records label, is an interpretation of American pianist Keith Jarrett's 1974 album, also titled *Belonging*.

The quartet additionally includes drummer Justin Faulkner, the band's newest member who joined in 2009 at age 18; pianist Joey Calderazzo; and Grammy Award-winning bassist and composer Eric Revis.

Marsalis also uses music to help people in need. After the destruction of Hurricane Katrina in his native New Orleans, Marsalis joined Harry Connick, Jr. and New



Orleans Habitat for Humanity to provide a community of homes for people who became displaced after the hurricane. The "Musicians Village" in the Upper Ninth Ward includes the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, which uses music as part of a strategy to provide a range of services to underserved children, youth and musicians from impoverished neighborhoods.

"This is a rare appearance by a world class jazz ensemble at the Astoria Theatre, Colorado Mesa University's new performing arts center," said Sandstone Entertainment concert promoter Ron Wilson.

Purchase tickets here: <https://tickets.coloradomesa.edu/event/branford-marsalis-cz1ry4>

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Around Moab Events

Mar 20–22 2026 Bowline Film Festival- Held in Green River, Utah in partnership with the John Wesley Powell River History Museum, curates films that explore rivers, landscapes, conservation, adventure, and Indigenous and local cultures of the Colorado Plateau. We welcome documentaries, narratives, shorts, and experimental work that deepen public understanding, inspire stewardship of waterways and wild places, and elevate authentic voices from the region. Programming includes screenings, filmmaker Q&As, museum collaborations, educational workshops, and river-based events. johnwesleypowell.com/bowline-film-festival/

You can pick up Moab Happenings in Grand Junction!

Fairground Liquors	Walgreens
Trek Bicycles	Homestyle Bakery
In the Middle Liquors	Conoco Stop & Save
Fisher Liquor Barn	Walmart - Delta
Family Dollar	Starvin Arvin's - Delta
Andy's Liquor	Don's Market - Paonia
Bookcliff Liquors	Stop & Save - Paonia & Montrose
Clifton Liquors	GoFer Store - Cedaredge
Pufferbelly's Restaurant	Foodtown - Cedaredge
Orchard Mesa Market	Crossroads Fitness
True Value Hardware	Post Offices in ...
Western Colorado Center for the Arts	Grand Junction, Palisade, Clifton, Fruita, Delta, Montrose
Habitat for Humanity Restore	
Kokopelli Liquors	

and many other locations

FRI, SAT, SUN
APR 17, 18, 19
2026

CORTEZ OUTDOOR EXPO

Fri, Apr 17 4pm–8pm | Sat, Apr 18 9am–5pm | Sun, Apr 19 10am–2pm

ADMISSION \$5 per day
Children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult

FOR MORE INFORMATION or vendor applications, contact Expo Manager: **Gayel Alexander**
970.529.3747 • 970.882.2150
lkgalexander2012@gmail.com

Cortez Outdoor Expo
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