

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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TROMBONIST/COMPOSER DELFEAYO MARSALIS RELEASES *MINIONS DOMINION* HIS 3rd ALBUM AS A LEADER, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

*** All-star session with brother Branford Marsalis, Donald Harrison, Mulgrew Miller, Eric Revis, Bob Hurst, featuring the legendary Elvin Jones on drums ***

"...one of the best, most imaginative and musical of the trombonists of his generation. His fluid expression and keen melodic sense are especially commendable." — Philip Elwood, [San Francisco Examiner](#)

Troubadour Jass Records announces the September 12, 2006 release of *Minions Dominion*, trombonist/composer Delfeayo Marsalis' third album as a leader and his first since 1996's *Musashi*. A highly diverse album of acoustic post-bop to modern jazz, *Minions Dominion* not only underscores Delfeayo's versatility as a composer - it also shows how much he has grown and matured as a soloist since the release of his first album, *Pontius Pilate's Decision*, back in 1992.

Minions Dominion, which consists of five Delfeayo originals and two time-honored standards, gets off to an exuberant start with the good-natured blues "Brer Rabbit." Delfeayo keeps the creative momentum going whether he is showing his romantic side on the tender original ballad "If You Only Knew" or swinging aggressively on the forceful title track. Through it all, he has a staunch ally in the late Elvin Jones — a master drummer who garnered a long list of accomplishments but is especially famous for his trailblazing work with saxophonist John Coltrane in the 1960s. Recorded in 2002, the *Minions Dominion* session took place only two years before Jones' death at the age of 76.

The session personnel on *Minions Dominion* varies from one track to the next. Delfeayo uses three different bassists - Eric Revis, Bob Hurst and Edwin Livingston - and while Mulgrew Miller is the album's primary pianist, Sergio Salvatore is heard on "If You Only Knew." The saxophone playing, meanwhile, ranges from the hard-swinging alto of Donald Harrison to the expressive tenor of Branford Marsalis, who is revered for his straight-ahead jazz playing as well as his work in other genres. But whomever Delfeayo is featuring on a particular song - and whether the mood is aggressive or laid-back - Jones is always an integral part of the album. Delfeayo, who played extensively with Jones' Jazz Machine, says: "Elvin was well-versed in many styles, which made him the perfect drummer for this CD."

"Lone Warrior" (which was written in Jones' honor) and "Lost in the Crescent" both have a very spiritual outlook that recalls Jones' work with Coltrane. Much like the programmatic writing of *Pontius Pilate's Decision*, "Lost in the Crescent" is based upon two fictional characters, aptly portrayed by Delfeayo and his oldest brother Branford. Although every bit as romantic as "If You Only Knew," "Just Squeeze Me" is performed at a slightly faster tempo. Delfeayo calls it a "bounce ballad"—a term that refers to mid-tempo ballads that were suited for the popular dance styles of the Swing Era. Delfeayo cites Coleman Hawkins' famous 1939 recording of "Body and Soul" as the ultimate bounce ballad from that era and his version of "Just Squeeze Me" is cut from a similar mold.

Born in New Orleans on July 28, 1965, Delfeayo comes from a musical family that includes not only his older brothers Branford and Wynton, but also his father, renowned pianist Ellis Marsalis, and his younger brother, drummer Jason. Delfeayo was 27 when, in 1992, Novus/RCA Records released his ambitious debut album, *Pontius Pilate's Decision*, which was inspired by Biblical events and characters. *Musashi*, recorded for Japan's King Records, followed in 1996. Delfeayo has been in heavy demand as a trombonist over the past decade, and the long list of artists who featured him as a sideman on their albums includes singer Ruth Brown, pianist Benny Green, trumpeter Edward Anderson, fellow trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, brother Branford, and, of course, the prolific Elvin Jones. He is an integral part of "Marsalis Family: A Jazz Celebration," a DVD that assembled all of the musical Marsalis' for the first time and was featured on PBS in 2003. Most recently, he is featured on Monty Alexander's CD *Concrete Jungle, The Music of Bob Marley*.

In addition to his accomplishments as a trombonist/composer, Delfeayo is a Grammy-winning producer, considered by far to be one of the top producers in jazz. He has worked on, as producer, co-producer, and engineer, at least 100 albums since the 1980s, including albums for Branford and Wynton, singer Harry Connick, Jr., trumpeter Terence Blanchard, pianists Marcus Roberts and Adam Makowicz (one of Poland's most acclaimed jazz improvisers), British saxman Courtney Pine, Ellis Marsalis, trumpeters Nicholas Payton and Marlon Jordan, pianists Eric Reed and Kenny Kirkland, drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. In the 2000s, he has produced and/or engineered albums by pianist Joey Calderazzo and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. From the first note to the last, his production skills are evident in the structure and cohesion of *Minions Dominion*.

The Boston Globe's Bob Blumenthal, reviewing a concert by the Elvin Jones Jazz Machine, wrote that featured trombonist Delfeayo "played the freshest music of the evening." And in reviewing a Max Roach concert, Richard S. Ginell of Daily Variety enthused: "*Marsalis Brother No. 3, Delfeayo, has become a most interesting, commanding trombone soloist.*" Michael Lyons of the Louisville Jazz Society recently noted, "*His layers of tone float through the room like clouds of cotton candy, gently shifting the color and tone of each note, carving and shaping them to perfection.*"

Minions Dominion offers 64 minutes of music featuring the late great master drummer Elvin Jones during his historic last studio session. The disc and intimate studio sessions, tour dates and interviews are available at Delfeayo's website.

www.delfeayomarsalis.com

Tour Dates

September 15	Moravian College	Bethlehem, PA
September 16	Lake George Jazz Weekend Shepard Park	Lake George, NY
Sept. 26 – 30	Berklee College of Music	Boston, MA
September 30	Beantown Jazz Festival	Boston, MA
October 28	Doubleday Babcock Center	Oyster Bay, NY
November 3	University of Virginia	Charlottesville, VA
November 4	Dimmock Community Health Center Benefit	Boston, MA

2007

January 12	Max M. Fisher Music Center	Detroit, MI
April 1	Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society	Half Moon Bay, CA
April 3 – 7	University of California, Davis	Davis, CA
April 12-13	Sculler's Jazz Club	Boston, MA
April 14	Tuckerman Hall	Worcester, MA
April 15	Greenwich Odeum	East Greenwich, RI

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CDs, JPEGs, press kits available

Booking information: www.tedkurland.com

IN THE NEWS

DELFEAYO MARSALIS

“His playing... is already marked by technical excellence, an inventive mind and frequent touches of humor... He has mastered the art of offering significant and valid music without seeming to take himself too seriously.” – Leonard Feather, [Los Angeles Times](#)

“This young man... is one of the best, most imaginative and musical of the trombonists of his generation. His fluid expression and keen melodic sense are especially commendable.” – Philip Elwood, [San Francisco Examiner](#)

“... a resoundingly skillful trombonist and composer.” — Nate Chinen, [NY Times](#)

“Slide trombonist Delfeayo Marsalis is that rare thing- a record producer who is also a first-class player and composer... Marsalis has distinguished himself as one of the more gifted producers of jazz today.” – Tom Terrell, [JazzTimes](#)

“Marsalis played the freshest music of the evening.... He impressed as both player and composer on “If You Only Knew,” where his lines were romantic and laced with vibrato...” – Bob Blumenthal, [Boston Globe](#)

“... Delfeayo is charming, hip, and his trombone solo has sweep. You can hear in it a generation or two of New Orleans street musicians.” – [Hollywood Reporter](#)

“Jazz flows through the veins of Delfeayo Marsalis like the muddy waters of the Mississippi through his beloved hometown of New Orleans.” – Steve Wildsmith, [The Daily Times](#) (Maryville, TN)

“His layers of tone float through the room like clouds of cotton candy, gently shifting the color and tone of each note, carving and shaping them to perfection.” – Michael Lyons, [Louisville Jazz Society](#)

“(Marsalis’) conceptual framework, command of tone, writing, and arranging all hew to his family’s perfectionist scholarship.” – Britt Robson, [Minneapolis/St. Paul City Pages](#)

“Delfeayo Marsalis was engaging both as a trombonist and in the role of master of ceremonies... Most importantly, he had a lot to say with his horn.” — Edward Kane, [jazzreview.com](#)