

Loren Schoenberg Interview

[American School of Doha](#)

i'm gail c director of teaching and learning here at asd and i have the pleasure today to have Loren Schoenberg with me

lauren is the director of the national jazz museum in harlem so it's not every day we have a lauren here with us so Lauren could you talk to us a bit first of all about the museum and and your role in that to start with well the National jazz museum as you mentioned it's in Harlem and the reason we chose Harlem is because really more than any other city in the United States Harlem has been the longest-standing home of jazz I mean it started New Orleans and went to other places wound up in Harlem and in 2001 we opened up a small little office in Harlem and started to build this jazz museum idea in 2004 we started doing public programming and in 2008 we really kind of started branching out with full-time programs and interviews and all kinds of things we moved to a new location just about two years ago and that's it I have two co directors the artistic co directors are the bassist Christian McBride yes and the pianist John Betty's yes Stephen Colbert show yes right and Christian McBride Grammy award-winning great musician and director of the Newport Jazz Festival among other things and so we have a great team administrative staff and those of us to work with programming and most people like jazz even though they don't know it okay because jazz is so much a part of the way that we all hear music that it's

almost like the air we all breathe air
but we don't think about air and jazz is
kind of like that in music it's pretty
much in every culture right and so
that's a great segue into what the
question I want to ask so this video
will go to students parents teachers so
really our commune
so who should we be listening to today
we've had the opportunity of having some
wonderful jazz musicians come here work
with our students play for our community
people like Dominic Fangio's Richard
Johnson Gregory generation Cheryl
Cassidy so who should we be listening to
who should our students and young
students who should they be doing - oh
that's a that's a hard question I would
probably start with the father of jazz
and that's Louis Armstrong yeah and you
can't go wrong with Louis Armstrong
besides Louis Armstrong Duke Ellington
actually visited this part of the world
back in the 1960s and wrote a piece of
music called the Far East suite it's not
the right title for the music from some
of the countries but it's called the Far
East suite and I would recommend that
record I would listen to Wynton Marsalis
but you already mentioned some people
who were really great Dominick fair
Adachi has a series of albums out and
he's done great work we're taking the
kind of music that you hear in this part
of the world in this great country and
integrating it into jazz music Dominica
and Richard have both done music
influenced by here that we've really
loved we also have written here this in
this very office
what's a nice office well that says
something because Wynton is you know
Winton's a very interesting figure
everyone knows him as the the great

musician and the bandleader and the listen to that but he's somebody who 24 hours a day seven days a week 365 known him which is decades yeah every day of his life is doing jazz and education and as you know if you see right now and some kid walked in with a trumpet yeah he'd say come up to my room I'm gonna be a trumpet less yeah so he's an amazing that's you you know it's been a pleasure having you here and as we move into International Jazz Day yes is April 30th yes

and we're really lucky to have Lauren here and Mark yes and Jim have been talking about looking at some partnerships that we can build with your museum well we would love to do that you know we're a Smithsonian affiliate and we do a lot of programming and frankly as an educator I've known about what Marc's been doing for a long time and I've heard about this school and it's so nice to finally see it but we would love to find a way to collaborate and bring our message and to bring your message in fact some of your faculty are going to be in New York we're going to invite them to the museum yeah in July so I hope to meet you all in person next time I'm here thank you thank you pleasure