

Renowned for his singular combination of robust swing and poetic insight, GRAMMY winner **Kurt Elling** has secured his place among the world's foremost jazz vocalists. Declared "the standout male vocalist of our time" by *The New York Times*, Elling has garnered unprecedented accolades, including a fourteen-year run atop the *DownBeat* Critics Poll, a dozen GRAMMY nominations, and eight Jazz Journalists Association awards for "Male Singer of the Year."

Elling's voice is instantly recognizable, embracing listeners with his warm, rich baritone and navigating the full span of his four-octave range as a virtuoso instrumentalist and a compelling storyteller. Whether transforming timeless standards or crafting his own enthralling originals, Elling balances elegant lyricism and technical mastery with wry humor, emotional depth, and keen observations into the human condition.

"Elling combines authenticity with stunning originality," is how *The Wall Street Journal* describes his talents, while *The Guardian* has called him "a kind of Sinatra with superpowers." *The Toronto Star* has gone so far as to say that "Kurt Elling is the closest jazz will ever get to having its own saint," while *The Guardian* makes up one voice in a chorus calling him "one of jazz's all-time great vocalists."

Elling's most recent release, *The Questions*, vividly exemplifies his ability to respond to the world around him with both urgent immediacy and a unique perspective. Co-produced by NEA Jazz Master and acclaimed saxophonist Branford Marsalis, the album searches for answers to the culture's most divisive social, political and spiritual issues in the songs of Bob Dylan, Carla Bley and Leonard Bernstein, and the poetry of Rumi and Wallace Stevens. Elling had previously joined Marsalis and his long-running Quartet for 2016's GRAMMY-nominated *Upward Spiral*, which *All About Jazz* hailed as "suffused with graciousness, beauty, and, on occasion, heartbreak."

Taking the long view of Elling's audacious and richly varied career, the *Washington Post* lauded, "Since the mid-1990s, no singer in jazz has been as daring, dynamic or interesting as Kurt Elling. With his soaring vocal flights, his edgy lyrics and sense of being on a musical mission, he has come to embody the creative spirit in jazz."