

# 2015 Hall of Fame Inductee

## Christopher Thomas

*Class of 1988*

Initially inspired as a fourth-grade violinist in the McKnight Elementary Orchestra, Christopher Thomas honed his musical skills through Brittany Woods Middle and into University City High School where his talents were developed by John Brophy, renowned orchestra and band teacher, as well as private music teachers.

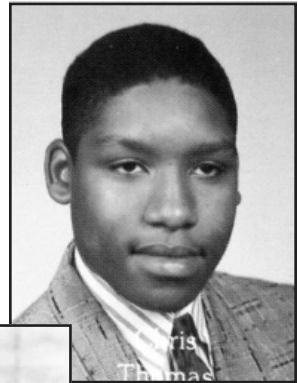
After a brief time with iconic jazz bassist Richard Davis at the University of Wisconsin, he moved to the University of New Orleans to study under leading jazz music educator Ellis Marsalis Jr. and launched his career with Brian Blade and Fellowship. He has performed around the world including venues

such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center and Hollywood Bowl. He also performed and recorded with renowned artists including Harry Connick Jr., Wynton Marsalis, Joshua Redman, Marianne Faithful, Emmylou Harris and others. In 2015, he was nominated for a Grammy with Brian Blade and the Fellowship Band.

During his career, he has collaborated on more than 30 CDs, appeared 10 times on The Late Show with David Letterman, nine times on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, three network specials, 10 European tours, five Asian tours and four featured-film soundtracks.

In the midst of touring and recording, Thomas found time to give back to his alma mater as part of University City Education Foundation's original "Lions of Jazz" in June 1999, helping raise more than \$33,000.

Since 2007, he shared his additional talents as head chef at Flaco's Cocina in U. City; recently seen at Jazz at the Bistro! He currently resides in Paris, France.



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