

## *Good Friends*

All my life I've been around musicians. From the early days when my father, a saxophone player, brought me into recording studios to visit friends; to the years spent learning to play the guitar and performing with local bands. Years later I became a guitar builder and this profession kept me in contact with many fine musicians. This series of photographs is about relationships between fellow musicians. In some ways it connects my guitar building days to my picture making days.

When I heard that Wynton Marsalis was coming to town I wanted to make his portrait so I went to find him at his hotel. I bumped into Avery Sharpe, an old friend and longtime bass player with McCoy Tyner. I built Avery's electric bass guitar more than ten years ago and hadn't seen him since. We were getting caught up when a man who had been doing some stretches on the floor next to us stood up and said hello. It was Wynton himself.

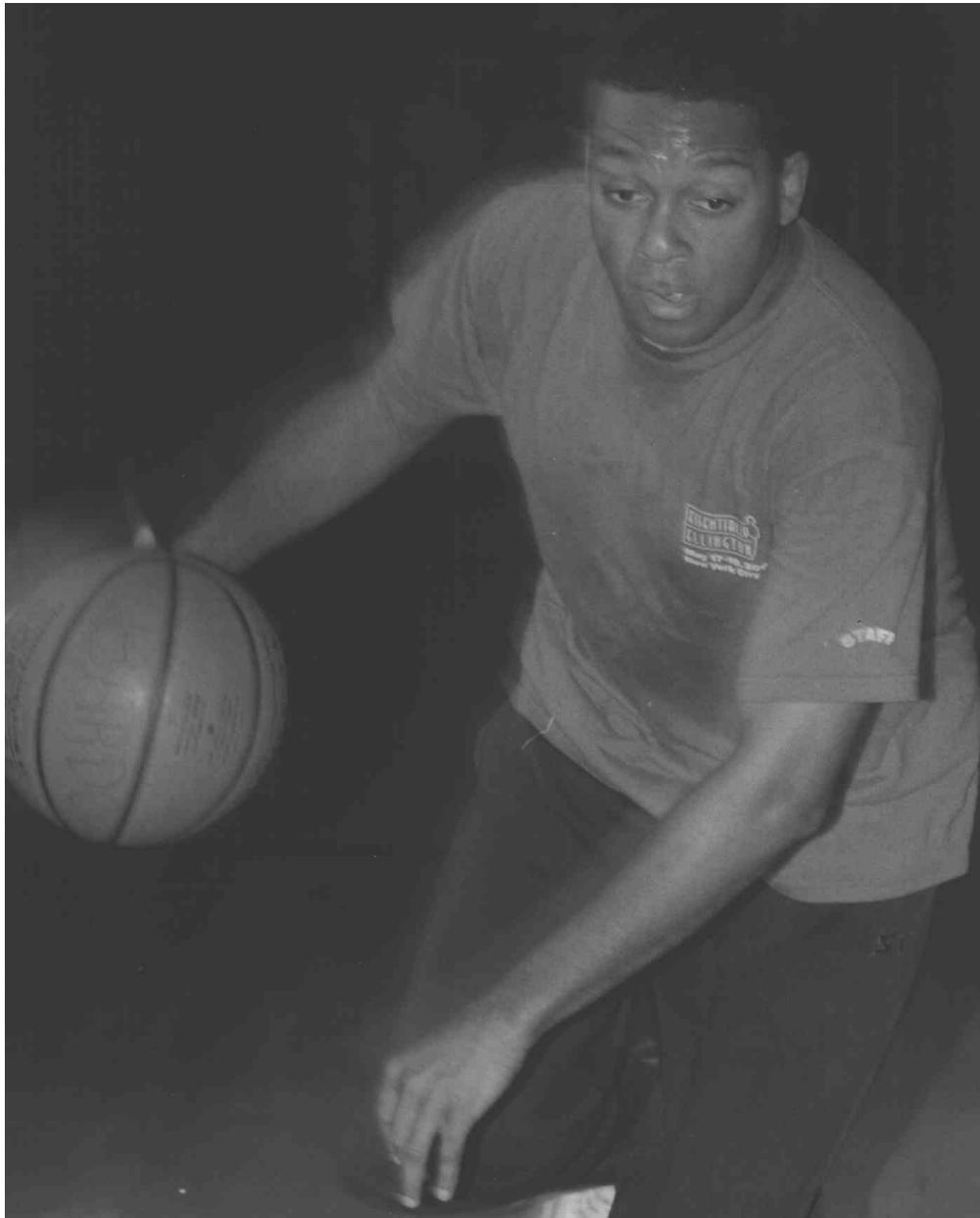
Noticing my camera, he invited me to document their basketball game. Wynton said the title of the piece could be *The Greatest Jump Shot of Any Music Educator Over Forty*. A bunch of us got on the tour bus and had many laughs together on the way to the gym where I photographed their game.

In this series I tried to capture the youthful spirit of these musicians at play and how beautiful it is to have good friends.

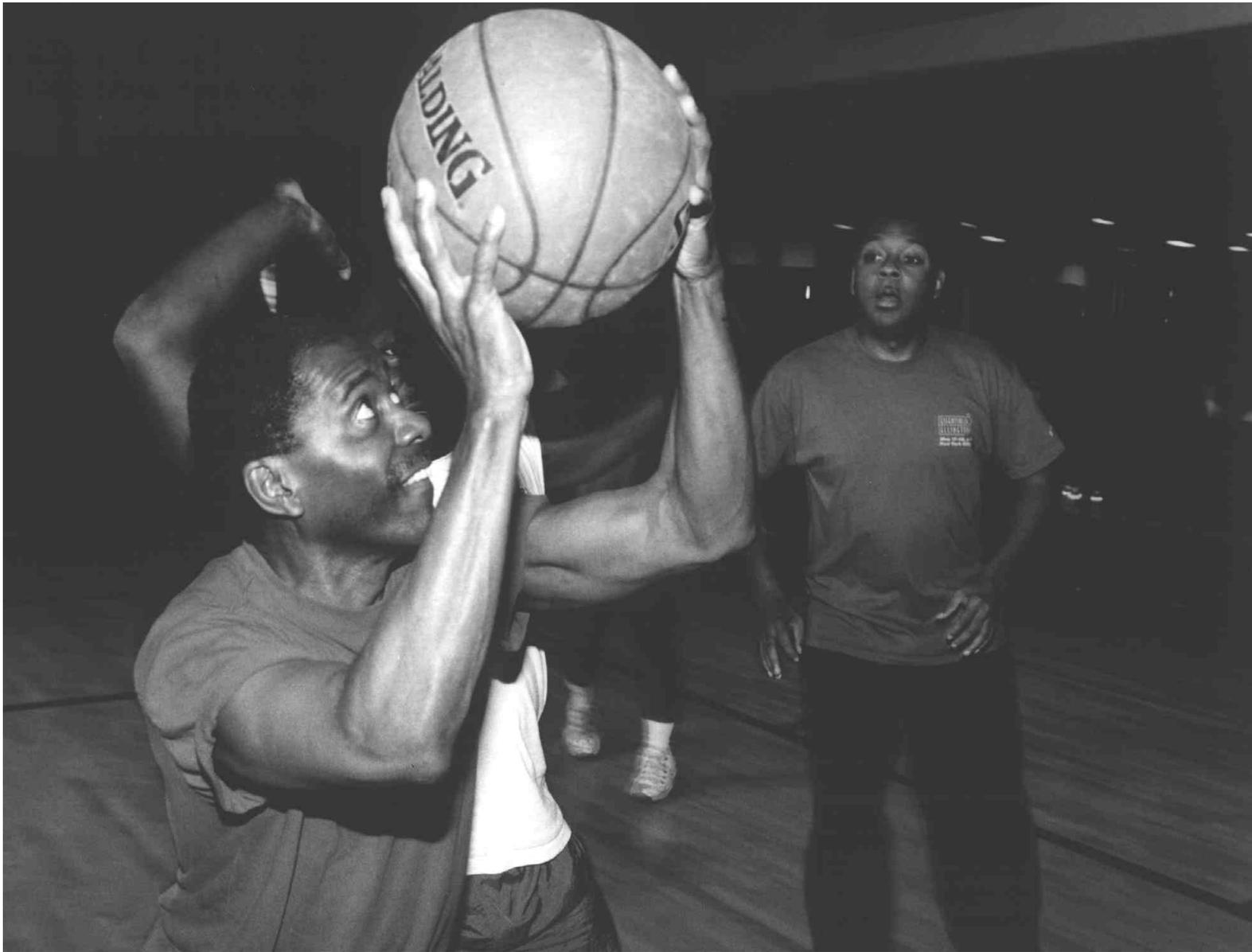
—Michael Jacobson-Hardy



Wynton dribbling around drummer Ali Jackson, Jr.



Smokin' Wynton



Avery Sharpe, longtime bassist with McCoy Tyner, takes a shot while  
Wynton Marsalis looks on



Wynton comforts Avery after the game



Avery recovers



Proud basketball player Winton Marsalis



Wynton Marsalis



Wynton performing at a concert later that evening in Northampton, Massachusetts

Michael Jacobson-Hardy is author of *The Changing Landscape of Labor: American Workers and Workplaces* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1996) and *Behind the Razor Wire: Portrait of a Contemporary American Prison System* (New York University Press, 1998). His photographs have been exhibited widely and are included in many public and private collections, including the Smithsonian Institution, the Addison Gallery of American Art, the Yale University Art Gallery, and the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University. His forthcoming book *In the Spirit of Peace* (Holmes & Meier Publishers, Inc.) will be available in the spring of 2004.

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