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For more information, please contact:
DANA BARDEN - (212) 258-9868, dbarden@jalc.org

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NORTH AMERICA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BANDS!



Photo Credit: Frank Stewart

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 12th ANNUAL *ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON* HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND COMPETITION

1st Place:

Roosevelt High School

2nd Place:

Agoura High School Studio Jazz Band

3rd Place:

Foxboro High School

New York, NY (May 6, 2007) Tonight, three high school jazz bands took top honors in **Jazz at Lincoln Center's 12th Annual *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival**. Each band was chosen by a panel of judges composed of distinguished jazz musicians and historians - chosen by a panel of judges composed of distinguished jazz musicians and historians — **WYNTON MARSALIS**, Jazz at Lincoln Center Artistic Director; Music Director, Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, **DAVID BAKER**; composer, conductor, and Ellington authority **DAVID BERGER**; and author, composer, and conductor **GUNTHER SCHULLER** — from among the 15 finalist bands from the U.S. and Canada that came to the Competition & Festival on May 4, 5, & 6, 2007.

Essentially Ellington culminated in tonight's concert at Avery Fisher Hall, where the top placing bands performed with Wynton Marsalis as a soloist followed by an all Ellington concert

performed by the 15-piece Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra – all of whom serve as mentors for each of the finalist bands during this weekend festival. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO) Ellington compositions performed tonight will be distributed by Jazz at Lincoln Center for the 2007-2008 *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Program. At the awards ceremony, Wynton Marsalis, presented prizes to each of the 15 finalist bands. Scott Brown, director of the Roosevelt High School Jazz Band, accepted the 1st place trophy and award of \$1,000. John Mosley, director of the Agoura High School Studio Jazz Band accepted the 2nd place trophy and award of \$750. Stephen Massey, director of the Foxboro High School Jazz Band, accepted the 3rd place trophy and award of \$500. King Philip Regional High School Jazz Band was named honorable mention band and was awarded \$350. The remaining 11 bands were awarded certificates of merit and awards of \$250 each. All monetary awards go toward improving schools' jazz programs. Awards for outstanding soloists and sections were also presented (see listing below).

Jazz at Lincoln Center's 12th Annual *Essentially Ellington*
High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival 2007 AWARDS

FIRST PLACE:

Roosevelt High School

SECOND PLACE:

Agoura High School Studio Jazz Band

THIRD PLACE:

Foxboro High School

HONORABLE MENTION BAND

King Philip Regional High School

OUTSTANDING SOLOISTS

On Clarinet, Tenor and Flute

Agoura High School Studio Jazz – Daniel Jenklow

On Clarinet

Edmonds-Woodway High School – Hannah Jones

Foxboro High School – Solveig Olsen

Garfield High School – Carl Majeau

River East Collegiate – Samantha Chrol

On Alto Saxophone

Carroll Senior High School – Devin Eddleman

Garfield High School – John Cheadle

Grandview High School – Mario Bennett

Greenwich High School – Ken Kaneko

Roosevelt High School – Logan Strosahl

On Tenor Saxophone

Agoura High School Jazz A – Christian Choh

Carroll Senior High School – Brian Clancy

Garfield High School – Joel Gombiner

Garfield High School – Devin Mooers

On Baritone Saxophone

Carroll Senior High School - Chris Milyo
King Philip Regional High School - Matt Kowalski
Williamsville East High School - Dominico Missana

On Trumpet

King Philip Regional High School - J.D. Chaisson
Williamsville East High School - Griffith Kazmierczak

On Trombone

King Philip Regional High School - Chris Palmer

On Valve Trombone

Honeoye Falls-Lima High School - Carter Middleton

On Tuba

Honeoye Falls-Lima High School - Willie Middleton

On Piano

Agoura High School Studio Jazz - Jake Higgins
Edmonds-Woodway High School - Devon Yesberger
Foxboro High School - Molly Kackloudis
Garfield High School - Benjamin Hamaji
Rio Americano High School - Dinos San Pedro
Rio Americano High School - John Rothfels
Roosevelt High School - Scotty Bemis

On Bass

Agoura High School Studio Jazz - Eric Lamm
Foxboro High School - Daniel Kasang
River East Collegiate - Graham Isaak
Williamsville East High School - Danny Ziemann

On Banjo

Roosevelt High School - Reed Ferris

On Drums

Mead High School - Christina Tracy

OUTSTANDING SECTIONS

Reeds

Carroll Senior High School
Roosevelt High School

Brass

King Philip Regional High School

Trombones

Foxboro High School
Mead High School
Roosevelt High School

Trumpets

Roosevelt High School

Rhythm Section

Agoura High School Studio Jazz

Foxboro High School
Roosevelt High School

In addition, Jazz at Lincoln Center recognized the winner in the sixth *Essentially Ellington* Essay Contest. The contest invited students from all participating high schools to submit an essay describing a personal experience with Jazz. Jazz at Lincoln Center received 71 essays from which esteemed historian, author, editor, archivist, and Director of the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers University DAN MORGENSTERN chose the winners. As the 1st place winner for the winning essay entitled "Taking the 'A' Train," by Alex Dugdale, (Roosevelt High School, Seattle, WA) was invited to name a seat in Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, and read his essay at the opening of the festival on Friday, May 4, 2007.

For more information on the Annual *Essentially Ellington* Student Essay Contest visit:
http://www.jalc.org/jazzED/ee/b_essay.html

- This year Jazz at Lincoln Center distributed more than 5,400 newly transcribed Ellington scores, reference recordings and additional educational materials.
- These materials were sent to more than 920 high schools in the United States, Canada and American schools in Bolivia, Brazil, France, Japan, Malaysia and Switzerland.
- 88 bands entered the competition by submitting a recording of three Ellington works.
- The entries were evaluated in a blind screening by jazz education experts RONALD CARTER, LOREN SCHOENBERG and REGINALD THOMAS.

The 15 finalists for *Essentially Ellington* 2007 were:

Agoura High School Studio Jazz Band, Agoura Hills, CA
Agoura High School Jazz A, Agoura Hills, CA
Rio Americano High School, Sacramento, CA
Greenwich High School, Greenwich, CT
Foxboro High School, Foxboro, MA
King Philip Regional High School, Wrentham, MA
River East Collegiate, Winnipeg, MB
Grandview High School, Grandview, MO
Honeoye Falls-Lima High School, Honeoye Falls, NY
Williamsville East High School, East Amherst, NY
Carroll Senior High School, Southlake, TX
Edmonds-Woodway High School, Edmonds, WA
Garfield High School, Seattle, WA
Roosevelt High School, Seattle, WA
Mead High School, Spokane, WA

2007 COMPETITION & FESTIVAL WEEKEND

The three-day festival began on Friday, May 4th when the finalist bands arrive at Frederick P. Rose Hall for "One-On-One With Wynton Marsalis," a reading by the essay contest winner, workshops, rehearsals, a banquet dinner and jam sessions with members of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO). The three-part competition was in Rose Theater on Saturday, May 5th at 3pm and Sunday, May 6th at 10am and 1pm. The panel judges each band's performance of three Ellington works. At the May 6, 7:30pm Concert and Awards Ceremony in Avery Fisher Hall, the three top-placing bands performed alone and with Wynton Marsalis, followed by the JLCO performing an all-Ellington set and the culminating awards ceremony honoring outstanding soloists and sections and the three top-placing bands.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Each year, Jazz at Lincoln Center selects and transcribes original arrangements of six Duke Ellington

compositions, which are published by Alfred Publications. The six selections for 2007, which reflect the variety of styles and forms in Ellington's body of work, are: Blue Rumble, Blue Serge, Don't Get Around Much Anymore, Jam-A-Ditty, The Mooche and Theme From The Asphalt Jungle Suite. Arrangements are distributed for a \$75 or \$45 membership fee to all high school jazz bands that express interest in the program by returning an application card.

Category C is for conglomerate groups, those made up of students from more than one school. There were four submissions in Category C, and the winning group receives a workshop with a clinician from Jazz at Lincoln Center. This year, Pacific Crest Community School, Portland, OR took home the Conglomerate Band Award.

Throughout March and April 2007, Jazz at Lincoln Center sent, free of charge, a professional musician to each of the 15 finalist schools to lead an intensive day-long workshop of rehearsals, lessons, and master classes. The clinicians included reed players RONALD CARTER and LOREN SCHOENBERG; bassist RODNEY WHITAKER; trombonists VINCENT GARDNER and WYCLIFFE GORDON and pianists ARTURO O'FARRILL and REGGIE THOMAS. During the Festival, each finalist band is paired with a Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra member as a mentor.

For a full schedule of *Essentially Ellington*, visit: http://www.jalc.org/jazzED/ee/b_timeline.html

For more information on the history of *Essentially Ellington*, visit: www.EssentiallyEllington.org

For the *Essentially Ellington* Alumni MySpace, visit: www.myspace.com/eealumni

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[Click here](#) for more information about Jazz at Lincoln Center.

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