



## December Newsletter

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Visit the *EE* website for resources, program information, and updates: [jalc.org/EssentiallyEllington](http://jalc.org/EssentiallyEllington)

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## 2009-10 HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND PROGRAM

### Announcing the 2010 Competition & Festival!

It's time to start thinking about your band's submission for the **15th Annual *Essentially Ellington* Competition & Festival!** Send us a recording for a chance to be one of the finalists this Spring in New York City. We're looking forward to listening to all the hard work your band has done on this incredible music! The Competition & Festival will take place on **May 8-10, 2010** at Jazz at Lincoln Center's home, Fredrick P. Rose Hall.

**Fifteen finalist bands and one winning community ensemble** will be invited to participate in the three-day event that includes workshops, rehearsals, jam sessions, and performances. The festival concludes with a final evening Concert and Awards Ceremony at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, where the three top-placing bands will share the stage with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Every band that submits a recording receives written comments from jazz education experts and a certificate signed by Wynton Marsalis. Finalist bands also receive a free in-school workshop with a Jazz at Lincoln Center teaching artist to prepare.

The **Application and Guidelines** for submitting a recording were not included in your membership package; instead they can be found on the *EE* website. When submitting a recording you must include an Application for the Competition & Festival, which can be downloaded from the website. Also included on the website are guidelines for making a recording and the adjudication rubrics used to assess entries, as well as tips on instrumentation and changing arrangements. To view the menu of these important resources and download an application form, [click here](#).

The Competition & Festival this year celebrates the music of Mary Lou Williams. The **repertoire requirements** for both recorded submission entries and festival performance are:

- Select three pieces from the 2009-10 *Essentially Ellington* repertoire OR replace one with any other Duke Ellington Orchestra chart in the *Essentially Ellington* library.

- Mary Lou Williams charts are applicable for the recording, but Benny Carter titles are not. At least one of your selections must be a Duke

Ellington Orchestra chart from the *Essentially Ellington* library (ie, you may not submit all three Mary Lou Williams charts.)

- Use this option to choose the pieces that best display the strengths of your band. Pieces must be performed in their entirety.

Another important change for this year is that the total number of students listed on your application cannot exceed 25.

The application deadline for the Competition & Festival is **January 29, 2010**. Late applications will not be accepted.

The fifteen finalist bands and winning community ensemble will be announced on **February 24, 2010**.

Financial concerns shouldn't prohibit any band from sending a recording for competition. There is funding available for travel reimbursement, and we have many fundraising ideas to assist you.

If you have any questions about the application or submitting a recording, please feel free to contact us. We hope to hear from as many bands as possible this year, including schools new to *EE*!

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### ***Essentially Ellington Celebrates 15 Years!***

In 2009-10, Jazz at Lincoln Center is celebrating the 15th anniversary of the acclaimed *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Program (*EE*).

By now we estimate that over 300,000 students have played the music of *EE* and our community as a whole extends far beyond that. Students, band directors, and the communities that support their efforts have come into our world and shared what they have learned with their own communities, bringing the mission and spirit of *EE* with them. After 15 years, we want to reconnect and learn more about the impact *EE* has had.

Students, band directors, parents, and general fans are encouraged to share their experiences and favorite stories via an online survey to reflect and document the impact of the program. We have a goal of gathering 1,500 survey responses by May. Responses will be compiled and presented during the Competition & Festival, May 8-10, 2010.

**To take the survey, visit [jalc.org/ee15](http://jalc.org/ee15).**

We've also got many other activities planned for the months leading up to the Festival - watch our website for weekly updates and more ways to get involved and help us spread the word.

### **Band Directors - we need your help!**

In addition to taking the band director survey, please encourage your students (past and present) to log on and take our survey as well. You are ALL part of our *EE* community, and we want to hear from you!

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### **Band Director Academy: June 25-28, 2010**

This June, Jazz at Lincoln Center will present the **11th Annual Band Director Academy, "Teaching Improvisation."** A four-day professional development workshop featuring an integration of performance, jazz pedagogy and demonstration of best practices, BDA emphasizes hands-on learning and techniques to be applied directly in the classroom. Using the blues as the entry to improvisation, this curriculum will focus on the transcription process, listening sessions, and choosing repertoire for various levels of players. There will also be

demonstrations on how to teach improvisation in a big band setting. BDA is led by some of the foremost jazz educators in the country and also includes jam sessions, lunchtime topic discussions and a faculty concert.

**June 25-28, 2010 - Frederick P. Rose Hall, New York, NY**

BDA features an all-star faculty lead by **Ronald Carter**, Director of Jazz Studies at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. **Additional faculty to be announced soon!**

**Reduced tuition for *Essentially Ellington* members is \$300.** Scholarships and discounted hotel rates also available.

Registration begins in February. For more information [click here](#) or contact us at [bda@jalc.org](mailto:bda@jalc.org)

Also, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Band Director Academy, "*Essentials of Teaching Jazz*", is coming to Calgary, Alberta in partnership with the Calgary Association for the Development of Music Education on January 20-23, 2010. For more information about the Band Director Academy in Calgary and to register to attend, [click here](#).

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### ***EE* Radio Show on Sirius/XM**

Sirius XM Radio will once again feature *Essentially Ellington* in a six-week series beginning Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. The hour-long shows, hosted by Wynton Marsalis, feature recordings of the Duke Ellington and Benny Carter Orchestras, as well as the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and high school performances from the *EE* Competition & Festival. New this year, the program will feature the music of Mary Lou Williams in addition to interviews by *EE* band directors, clinicians, and students.

Tune in for the weekly broadcast on Sundays at 8pm (ET) / 5pm (PT); Saturdays 12 noon (ET) / 9am (PT); Sundays 12 midnight (ET) / Saturday 9pm (PT); on Sirius channel 72 and XM channel 70.

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### **Visit *EE* at The Midwest Clinic**

Heading to the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago this week? Come visit us on December 16-18 at booth #855. We'll be sharing information about our programs and resources, as well as giving away free charts for jazz ensembles! Come by and say hello, tell us about your band, give us a suggestion, or ask a question. See you there!

To visit the Midwest Clinic website, [click here](#).



**For more information on *Essentially Ellington*, contact** Joanna Massey, Martin Hundley, and Amelia Stanley

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