

# 2012 *Essentially Ellington* Competition & Festival Recording and Application Guidelines

This chart will guide you through the *Essentially Ellington* Competition & Festival application process. Please read through the Guidelines carefully before completing your application form and recording submission. Please contact us if you have any questions concerning your entry at **212-258-9812** or **ee@jalco.org**.

You are encouraged to make a recording of your band performing three charts, no matter what your level of ensemble or experience. Every submission receives thorough qualitative and quantitative comments from our recording adjudicators, and a signed certificate of merit.

*Please note:* Financial concerns should not 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.

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## Basic Application Information

<b>Submission Due Date</b>	<b>Friday, January 27, 2012 by 4pm EST</b>
<b>Categories for Competition</b>  *Community bands are groups made up of students who attend more than one high school.	<b>Category A</b> - All school ensembles who <i>were not</i> finalists in the 2010 or 2011 <i>EE</i> Competition & Festival will compete for ten finalist spaces.  <b>Category B</b> - All school ensembles who <i>were</i> finalists in the 2010 or 2011 <i>EE</i> Competition & Festival will compete for five finalist spaces.  <b>Category C</b> - Community bands* will compete to perform in exhibition at the Competition & Festival. One band will be selected. The 2011 winner is not eligible.
<b>Festival Dates</b>	<b>The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual <i>Essentially Ellington</i> Competition &amp; Festival will be held May 4-6, 2012 in New York, NY.</b>
<b>Technical Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications must be submitted <b>in CD format</b>.</li> <li>• Each tune must be its own track.</li> <li>• Each piece must be recorded live – no editing!</li> <li>• The recording should be of the best quality possible, though not necessarily professionally recorded.</li> <li>• No artificial recording techniques (i.e. reverb, echo, etc)</li> <li>• Total performance time must not exceed 17 minutes.</li> </ul>

## 2012 *EE* Competition & Festival Recording & Application Guidelines (con't)

### Repertoire, Performance and Personnel

<b>Repertoire Options</b>	<p>Bands must select three (3) tunes from the <i>Essentially Ellington</i> library for their Competition application. These three selections must meet the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>At least one (1) must be selected from the 2011-12 <i>Essentially Ellington</i> repertoire.</u></b> You may select more than one if you feel it best suits your band.</li><li>• <b><u>At least one (1) tune must be a Duke Ellington transcription.</u></b> You cannot play three tunes by other composers from the library.</li></ul> <p><b><u>All titles published through the <i>Essentially Ellington</i> library are eligible for submission.</u></b> You may include the music of Benny Carter, Mary Lou Williams, Count Basie and Dizzy Gillespie with your application. For a full list of music in the <i>EE</i> library, visit <a href="http://jalco.org/EssentiallyEllington">jalco.org/EssentiallyEllington</a></p> <p>Choose pieces that best display the strengths of your band. Pieces must be performed in their entirety.</p>
<b>Instrumentation and substitutions</b>	<p>All performances should be one player per part; you may include all players by rotating them among the pieces. Substitution of instruments is acceptable as long as parts are not transposed and ensemble parts are played as written. Be aware that substitutions will have an impact on the sound of the band.</p> <p>Improvisation is an essential part of performing this music. Choose soloists based on what is best for your band and be strategic about how solo sections are used.</p>
<b>Changing the arrangement</b>	<p>You may make changes to arrangements, so long as they maintain the integrity of the original piece and the style of that composer. If material is added that does not produce the same spirit and intent as the original, the power of the music is weakened.</p> <p>You may choose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feature soloists other than those indicated</li><li>• Extend solo sections</li><li>• Add introductions <i>as is appropriate</i> to this style of music</li></ul> <p>However, you do not need to make these types of changes to have a successful recording - more is not necessarily better. You want to make choices that best showcase your band.</p> <p>For more information and ideas, please refer to our website for advice from JALC Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis and <i>Essentially Ellington</i> clinicians, as well as repertoire guides and previous Festival performance recordings.</p>
<b>Student Eligibility</b>	<p><b><u>The number of students listed on your application and attending the festival must not exceed 25.</u></b> Students listed on the application must be the same as those who attend and perform at the Competition &amp; Festival. No substitutions without prior Jazz at Lincoln Center approval. Finalist bands must attend all festival activities and all students must be in attendance at all Festival events.</p> <p>Students must be in grades 9-12 and between the ages of 13 and 19. <i>Note – if necessary to complete parts, up to two eighth graders may be used.</i></p>

## 2012 *EE* Competition & Festival Recording & Application Guidelines (con't)

### Submitting Your Application

<p><b>Submit Copies of Your Recording</b></p> <p>Recordings will become property of Jazz at Lincoln Center. They will not be returned.</p>	<p>You must submit <b>three (3) copies</b> of your recording:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>One (1) copy</b> must be labeled with the following information:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name of band</li><li>• School or program name</li><li>• City and state</li><li>• Title of compositions in performance order</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Two (2) copies</b> must be labeled with following information:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Title of compositions in performance order <u>only</u></li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>Complete the Application Form</b></p>	<p>You must fill out the entire <b>Application Form</b> for your submission to be considered. Please type or handwrite neatly the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submission Category</li><li>• School and Director Contact Information</li><li>• Student personnel</li><li>• Titles and featured soloists</li></ul>
<p><b>Provide a brief description of your program</b></p>	<p>Provide a brief (one page), typed description of your school or organization's jazz program. Please include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Program history/background</li><li>• Student make-up</li><li>• Rehearsal schedule</li><li>• Highlights of the past two seasons/school years</li><li>• How you've used <i>Essentially Ellington</i> music – performances, classroom activities, resources used, etc</li><li>• Describe your program's greatest assets and its greatest needs</li><li>• Short biography of the band director teaching and/or performing experience</li></ul> <p>Should your band be chosen as a finalist, this information will be used in Festival documents, so please be as thorough as possible.</p> <p><i>Please note</i> – the screening process is completely blind and this information will have no bearing on your score or selection as a finalist.</p>

**Applications submitted without all pieces will not be eligible for the Competition & Festival.**

<p><b>Mail your application</b></p>	<p>Send your complete application to:</p> <p><b><i>Essentially Ellington</i></b> <b>Jazz at Lincoln Center</b> <b>33 W. 60<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor</b> <b>New York, NY 10023</b></p> <p>All submissions <i>must arrive</i> by <b>4pm EST on Friday, January 27, 2012.</b></p> <p><b>Materials will not be returned.</b></p>
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# ***Essentially Ellington* Competition & Festival Application Frequently Asked Questions**

## **How is my application scored?**

Bands are judged in five categories – Soulfulness, Rhythm Section, Soloing/Improvisation, Interpretation and Basic Musicianship/Technique. Each category is evaluated on each tune performed, on a scale of 1 to 10. The cumulative total of all three songs determines your Total Score.

*Essentially Ellington* has created detailed adjudication rubrics, which provide a narrative of the scoring system used by our adjudicators and Festival judges. That document is available at [jalc.org/EssentiallyEllington](http://jalc.org/EssentiallyEllington).

## **What is the screening process?**

All entries are judged in a two-part blind screening process by prominent jazz educators and musicians.

All entries are initially evaluated by two adjudicators. The top scoring ensembles in each category then move onto a second round of screening. From these, the screening panel, ten ensembles from **Category A** and five ensembles from **Category B** are selected as finalists. One winning ensemble from **Category C** will be invited to perform in exhibition at the Festival. The winning community ensemble is not eligible to compete.

## **How and when will the finalists be announced?**

The 15 finalists and winning community ensemble will be posted on the Jazz at Lincoln Center website ([jalc.org/EssentiallyEllington](http://jalc.org/EssentiallyEllington)) on Wednesday, February 22, 2012.

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## **Quick Check List for Submitting a Festival Application:**

- Did you review the Application Guidelines and confirm your category, the repertoire requirements, personnel requirements and technical requirements?
- Did you include the proper number of copies of your recording?
- Did you correctly label your recordings?
- Did you complete the entire Application Form (both sides)?
- Did you include a brief description of your school or organization's jazz program?
- Does the address on your envelope read:

***Essentially Ellington***  
**Jazz at Lincoln Center**  
**33 W. 60<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**New York, NY 10023**