

# Judging Criteria and Finalist Selection/Announcement

## Quick Checklist for Submitting a Recording

Before submitting your recording for Competition or Comments Only, please thoroughly review the Recording Submission & Application Procedure document and the quick checklist below.

- Did you review the different categories for submission, the age requirements of the players, the technical requirements of the recording, the repertoire options for each category, and the instrumentation and substitutions guidelines to see that your submission qualifies?
- Did you include the proper number of recordings?
- Did you correctly label your recordings?
- Did you complete both sides of the application form?
- Did you include a brief description of your school or organization's jazz program?

Bands are judged in five categories: Soulfulness, Rhythm Section, Soloing/Improvisation, Interpretation, and Basic Musicianship/Technique.

*Essentially Ellington* has added adjudication rubrics, providing a detailed narrative of the scoring system used by judges to assess a band's performance. (See the Adjudication Rubrics).

All entries will be judged in a blind screening process by prominent jazz educator/musicians.

**Category A** entries will be initially evaluated by two adjudicators. The top thirty recordings will move onto a second round of screening. From these, the screening panel will select the top ten as finalists.

**Category B** entries will be initially evaluated by two adjudicators. The top ten recordings will move onto a second round of screening. From these, the screening panel will select the top five as finalists.

**Category C** entries will be initially evaluated by two adjudicators. The top five will move into a second round of screening. From these, the screening panel will select the winner to perform in exhibition at the Festival.

The players who travel to New York must be the same students who are listed on the Application Form, and should not exceed 25.

Winners will be posted on the Jazz at Lincoln Center website ([www.jalc.org/EssentiallyEllington](http://www.jalc.org/EssentiallyEllington)) on February 24, 2010.

All recordings submitted for comments only will receive written feedback by April 30, 2010.