

Essentially Ellington 2009
JALC Season 17
Pgm # 33 Feed date 5/13/10

1) Music: Band Director and student call and response.

2) Pierce:

EACH MAY, THE CROWDS AROUND NEW YORK'S JAZZ EVENTS SUDDENLY SEEM A WHOLE LOT YOUNGER -- AS HUNDREDS OF HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIANS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY CONVERGE ON THIS CITY FOR A FESTIVAL DEVOTED TO THE ART OF THE JAZZ BAND AND THE WORK OF ITS MOST PRODIGIOUS COMPOSER.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER STARTED WITH PROFESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF SIX OF DUKE ELLINGTON'S TUNES AND SENT THEM TO HIGH SCHOOLS AROUND NEW YORK CITY. THIS PAST YEAR, MORE THAN 1,500 SCHOOLS AROUND THE COUNTRY REQUESTED THE SCORES. 107 OF THEM SENT BACK THEIR RECORDINGS TO OUR HIGHLY SELECTIVE PANEL OF JUDGES.

AND WHEN THE DUST SETTLED, FIFTEEN OF THOSE BANDS WERE ON THE WAY TO ROSE HALL -- FOR THREE DAYS OF MENTORING, JAM SESSIONS AND COMPETITION.

AND EIGHTY-EIGHT ARRANGEMENTS, AND THREE-HUNDRED THOUSAND STUDENTS FROM ITS BEGINNINGS, THE **ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION** HAS BECOME A GIANT ENGINE OF SWING, DRIVING MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS AROUND THE WORLD.

JUST AHEAD, WE'LL HEAR THE FORMIDABLE WINNING

BANDS. I'M WENDELL PIERCE, THIS IS JAZZ AT LINCOLN
CENTER.

3) Music: rehearsal sounds

4) Pierce:

OUR FIRST ENSEMBLE HAS MADE IT TO THE ESSENTIALLY
ELLINGTON FINALS SIX TIMES BEFORE, NO EASY FEAT IN
ITSELF, BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL 2009 THAT THE BAND FROM
WISCONSIN'S EAU CLAIRE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL BROKE
INTO THE TOP THREE.

5) Vox: Bruce Herring

"I think there were a number of things we changed a little bit this year. There were more sectionals, there was //a persistent, consistent effort throughout the year. It wasn't just that we poured it on at the end, these guys would come back on a Monday and I'd be overhearing them say, yeah, you guys had a three hour section, but we had a four hour sectional, so there's a little friendly competition going on back and forth. They really took ownership of the band and I think that was a big part of it.

6) Pierce

TROMBONIST GARRETT BLOOM AND TRUMPETER
ANDREW MORGAN.

7) Vox: Garrett Bloom

"This is my first year in the band, and it's been an amazing experience. all the sectionals and all the things we've been doing to prepare for this concert, basically tonight has been worth it. Everything we've done finally came through."

8) Vox: Andrew Morgan:

"They started out by calling out Roosevelt and Garfield and we're like 'yeah, they make it every year,' so we're just like okay and they called out our name and we're just like... // people were screaming and crying and hugging, and it was just all sorts of emotions. Everywhere. It felt really really awesome."

9) Pierce:

HERE'S THE SET THAT CLINCHED A HARD FOUGHT THIRD PLACE FOR EAU CLAIR. THE FIRST TUNE REPRESENTS AN EXPANDED DIMENSION OF ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON: COMPOSITIONS BY OTHER SEMINAL BIG BAND COMPOSERS, LIKE MARY LOU WILLIAMS AND BENNY CARTER.

THIS IS CARTER'S "SYMPHONY IN RIFFS,"

10) Music: Symphony in Riffs (4:05)

11) Music: Moon Over Cuba (4:46)

12) Music: The Happy Go Lucky Local (6:22)

13) Pierce:

DUKE ELLINGTON'S "THE HAPPY GO LUCKY LOCAL," PERFORMED BY THE EAU CLAIR MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND, THIRD PLACE WINNERS OF THE 2009 ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON COMPETITION. BEFORE THAT THEY PLAYED "MOON OVER CUBA," AND BENNY CARTER'S "SYMPHONY IN RIFFS."

14) Pierce:

OUR NEXT GROUP IS A FAMILIAR NAME IN THE RANKS OF THE ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON ELITE. SEATTLE'S ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL HAS REACHED THE TOP THREE SEVEN TIMES

OVER THE YEARS.

15) Vox: Joanna Massey

"There are definitely a core group of schools that have been multi-time finalists with Essentially Ellington and there are many factors that go into how that happens, but definitely the directors are a huge part of it."

16) Pierce:

JOANNA MASSEY IS JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

17) Joanna Massey

"...and the programs that they've established a lot of times starting at the elementary and middle school level, and the support that they've garnered within their community for jazz and for the jazz band program is something that's sustained over the years, and so even when they do lose seniors or top students, they're filling those ranks with other students continually, and continually keeping the quality of the program high."

18) Vox: Scott Brown

"It's just a longstanding tradition of swing, and great educators who have been doing this for a long long time..."

19) Pierce:

SCOTT BROWN IS ROOSEVELT'S BAND DIRECTOR, AND A NIMBLE JAZZ TROMBONIST IN SEATTLE.

20) Vox: Scott Brown

"Before I was involved, there was a great teacher at Roosevelt high school for many years, Waldo King. He and some others in the area in the northwest laid the foundation for an appreciation of how to swing, and we're very proud to continue it.

21) Pierce:

ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON'S SECOND PLACE WINNER
ROOSEVELT HIGH BEGINS THEIR SET WITH "MOON OVER
CUBA."

22) Music: Moon Over Cuba 5:09

23) Pierce:

THE ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND FROM
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON--"MOON OVER CUBA."

WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING TUNES FROM THE
ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON REPERTOIRE, BAND DIRECTOR
SCOTT BROWN LIKES THE ELLINGTON METHOD: MATCH THE
PLAYER WITH THE PART.

24) Vox: Scott Brown

"It revolves around the music and also around the personnel in the
band. For instance, Andrew here, we've been talking about the possibility of
him doing sophisticated lady since he was a sophomore in high school, so
now he's a senior and it was a logical choice for us, and he plays it so well it
just kind of makes sense. So you choose what fits the band."

25) Pierce:

WHEN THE BANDS GET TO NEW YORK, THEY ARE EACH
ASSIGNED A MENTOR FROM RANKS OF THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN
CENTER ORCHESTRA. THIS GAVE ROOSEVELT'S BARITONE SAX
PLAYER ANDREW MORRELL A CHANCE TO WORK WITH A
GIANT OF THAT INSTRUMENT -- JOE TEMPERLEY.

26) Vox: Andrew Morrell

"He talked about some phrasing things that were specific to the baritone. So that was really helpful because I think that people with less experience with the baritone don't really understand those things, and he's just...I mean he has a ton of experience. He's been playing forever.

27) Pierce:

ANDREW MORRELL HASN'T BEEN PLAYING FOREVER, BUT HE'S CERTAINLY FOUND HIS WAY AROUND THE BARITONE ON ELLINGTON'S "SOPHISTICATED LADY."

28) Music: Sophisticated Lady 4:08

29) Music: Symphony in Riffs 5:50

30) Pierce:

THE ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND FROM SEATTLE, WASHINGTON CLOSING THEIR SET WITH BENNY CARTER'S "SYMPHONY IN RIFFS."

YOU CAN HEAR THE MUSIC OF ALL FIFTEEN OF THE BANDS THAT CAME TO NEW YORK FOR ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON -- AT J A L C DOT ORG. WHILE YOU'RE THERE, CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR JAZZ EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND BRING HOME THE SWING. IT'S ALL JUST A CLICK AWAY AT J A L C DOT ORG --

OUR FIRST PLACE WINNERS ARE COMING UP IN JUST A MOMENT. I'M WENDELL PIERCE -- THIS IS JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER.

31) Music -- :60 break w/ music vintage Duke

32) Pierce:

OUR FINAL GROUP - THE FIRST PLACE WINNERS OF THE 2009 ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON FESTIVAL, WILL BE FAMILIAR TO OUR LONGTIME LISTENERS. THEY ARE ANOTHER OF THE GREAT BANDS FROM WASHINGTON STATE THAT PUT IN THE HARD WORK REQUIRED TO WIN THE ANNUAL INVITATION TO ROSE HALL.

33) Vox: Clarence Acox

"Essentially Ellington is a festival that's //like no other"

34) Pierce:

GARFIELD'S BAND DIRECTOR, CLARENCE ACOX.

34a) Vox: Clarence Acox

"...the fact that they have clinicians to come out to the school to work with the young people, you have a mentor interact with once you get to the festival, and they pretty much stay with you the whole time. You also have a guide with you for the whole time. The whole feeling of the festival from the time you walk through the door, I call it a gauntlet of love when you walk down the stairs, and people on either side cheering for you. No where else does that happen."

35) Pierce:

SEATTLE'S GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL JUMPS INTO THIS WINNING SET WITH **THEIR** VERSION OF THE FESTIVAL FAVORITE "SYMPHONY IN RIFFS."

36) Music: Symphony in Riffs 3:11

37) Music: Black and Tan Fantasy 6:09

38) Pierce:

DUKE ELLINGTON'S "BLACK AND TAN FANTASY," THE

GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE FROM SEATTLE,
WASHINGTON, LED BY CLARENCE ACOX.

39) Vox: Joanna Massey

"He's one of the real founding fathers of jazz education in Seattle and nationwide."

40) Pierce:

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATION.

41) Vox: Joanna Massey

"Clarence is someone who with his program has found a way to not use the music to teach the blues...so, it's not bringing a blues feeling to a piece of music, it's instead teaching the blues, teaching improvising on the blues as a core concept, that then can be applied to the repertory and the charts you are working on. and I think by making the blues central not just to what the students are doing in the high school program, but starting with what they're doing in middle school, in the feeder programs, the blues and the blues aesthetic, becomes a part of their training, becomes part of their approach to improvisation, so that when they're working on a particular pieces that's there, it's sort of ingrained in them already which is a really great way to teach jazz

42) Pierce:

DUKE ELLINGTON TROMBONIST JUAN TIZOL WROTE THIS
CLASSIC AND IT GIVES GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL LOTS OF ROOM
TO STRETCH OUT. "PERDIDO."

43) Music: Perdido 5:59

44) Pierce: (continues)

UNDER THE BATON OF CLARENCE ACOX --JUAN TIZOL'S
“PERDIDO” – FIRST PLACE WINNERS, FROM SEATTLE’S
GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL -- AT THE 14TH ANNUAL ESSENTIALLY
ELLINGTON COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL AT THE ROSE
THEATER IN THE HOUSE OF SWING.

WE ARE PROUD OF ALL THESE FINALISTS -- AND
ESPECIALLY THOSE BANDS THAT HAVE COME BACK, EACH
YEAR TAKING THE MUSIC TO A HIGHER LEVEL.

45) Pierce: (continues)

THE ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON COMPETITION AND
FESTIVAL IS OPEN TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BANDS IN THE
U.S. AND CANADA. YOU CAN FIND DETAILS AND HEAR OUR
FINALISTS AND THE WINNERS AT J A L C (DOT) ORG.

46) Pierce: (continues)

IN THE TIME WE HAVE LEFT WE’D LIKE TO PLAY A BIT
FROM OUR HONORABLE MENTION WINNER. THIS IS THE NEW
WORLD SCHOOL OF THE ARTS FROM MIAMI, WITH "JEEP'S
BLUES."

46A) music

44) Pierce:

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER RADIO IS PRODUCED AT
MURRAY STREET BY DAVID GOREN, WHO WROTE THIS
PROGRAM, WITH STEPHEN RATHE AND ALEXA LIM.

THE MUSIC RECORDINGS WERE MADE BY JEFF JONES AT THE XM/EFFANEL STUDIO IN ROSE HALL. AND AT STORYVILLE STUDIO IN NEW ORLEANS.

OUR THANKS TO JOANNA MASSEY, ERIKA FLORESKA AND MATTHEW LONG MIDDLETON.

CAT HENRY SUPERVISES RECORDINGS AND BROADCASTS FOR JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER. WYNTON MARSALIS IS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR. AND ADRIAN ELLIS IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'M WENDELL PIERCE. THANKS FOR BEING WITH US.