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**JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER RADIO
ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON
SEASON 18
PROGRAM 32; AIRDATE 5/5/11**

1) AUDIO: Cheer tunnel

1a) VOX: Brett Ewer –

Our director always says you got to live for that moment when you come off the stage and when you are done playing. And your body is coursing with absolute euphoria. It's a musical high. Right now I feel ecstatic.

1c) AUDIO: CHEER TUNNEL UP AND FADE INTO MUSIC

1d) MUSIC

2) PIERCE:

ON STAGE THEIR PERFORMANCES ARE POLISHED – HALF A YEAR IN THE MAKING. BUT OFF STAGE, THERE ARE NERVES, DRAMA, PRIDE, HUMILITY AND COLLEGIAL COMPETITION. THERE'S IMMERSION IN WORKSHOPS AND MASTER CLASSES; AND AFTER HOURS CLUB SETS WITH THE MUSICIANS WHO ARE DEFINING JAZZ TODAY.

EACH MAY, FIFTEEN HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BANDS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY CONVERGE ON NEW YORK'S "ROSE HALL" TO SPEND THESE THREE DAYS IN FRIENDLY BATTLE AT THE ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON JAZZ BAND COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL.

4) Pierce:

I'M WENDELL PIERCE ---THIS IS JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER RADIO.
-- LET'S BRING ON THE SWING.

3) MUSIC:

4) PIERCE:

THE JOURNEY TO "ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON" STARTS IN THE FALL. HIGH SCHOOL BAND DIRECTORS ARE SENT ORIGINAL WRITTEN ARRANGEMENTS WITH DEFINITIVE RECORDINGS OF GREAT BIG BAND JAZZ. IN THE PACKAGE IS AN INVITATION TO COMPETE FOR A PLACE IN OUR SPRING GATHERING .

FOUR MONTHS LATER, THE SCHOOLS SUBMIT THEIR OWN RECORDINGS OF THREE OF THE SONGS, AND THESE ARE REVIEWED BY TOP MUSICIANS AND JAZZ EDUCATORS. FIFTEEN FINALIST BANDS ARE INVITED TO NEW YORK CITY FOR THE COMPETITION IN MAY.

BY THE TIME THE FESTIVAL COMES AROUND, THE FINALISTS HAVE BEEN HONING THE MUSIC FOR MONTHS. AND THE REHEARSALS DON'T STOP UNTIL THEY HIT THE ROSE THEATER STAGE.

5) VOX:

5a) Dante Francomano

The week before we came down, We spent most of the three hour rehearsal just talking about our viewpoints on the music and how some people have gotten tired of it and a lot of us had. And I wasn't tired to the point of hating it, but we'd gone over this stuff so much, um, we almost felt that we had worn it out, but by the time today's rehearsal came around. it was kinda like it was reborn for us. I don't know.

5b) Max Schneider

yeah, you know we've been practicing this music for half a year now, so finally getting up there up onto that stage, you know having fun playing that music is just amazing.

6) PIERCE:

FROM WRENTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, KING PHILLIPS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL'S BARITONE SAXOPHONIST DANTE FRANCOMANO <FRANK-oh-

man-oh) AND TROMBONIST MAX SCHNEIDER. HERE'S THEIR VERSION OF
DUKE ELLINGTON'S SHAKESPEARIAN ODE- "LADY MAC."

7) MUSIC: LADY MAC (3:38)

8) PIERCE:

THE KING PHILLIPS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BAND UNDER THE BATON OF PETER TILESTON IN THE ROSE THEATER AT THE FINALS OF THE “ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL” 2010.

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER BEGAN “ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON” IN 1996 TO TEACH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THE ESSENCE OF JAZZ: HOW TO SWING, HOW TO PLAY IN A GROUP AND HOW TO LET YOUR OWN VOICE SHINE THROUGH.

THE MUSIC OF DUKE ELLINGTON HAS BEEN AT THE CORE OF THE CURRICULUM FOR OVER 3,000 SCHOOLS AND 300,000 STUDENT MUSICIANS.

BUT E.E - AS IT’S FAMILIARLY KNOWN- IS MORE THAN JUST A COMPETITION. ANY U.S. HIGH SCHOOL BAND CAN RECEIVE THE CHARTS AND GET A CRITIQUE OF THEIR RECORDED PERFORMANCE.

CLINICIANS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA, VISIT THE FINALIST SCHOOLS TO WORK WITH THE STUDENTS AND THE BAND DIRECTORS.

BETWEEN JANUARY AND APRIL, THE STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS RAISE MONEY TO PAY FOR THEIR TRIP TO NEW YORK.

FINALLY THEY ARRIVE – BY PLANE, BUS, CAR OR ON FOOT, FOR THREE DAYS OF OPEN REHEARSALS, JAM SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS TO CONTINUE HONING THEIR CHOPS AND THEIR PERFORMANCES.

9) AUDIO : VOCAL WORKSHOP

9b) VOX: Katie Tidaback

9c) PIERCE:

VOCALIST KATIE TIDABACK CAME FROM THE TUCSON COMMUNITY JAZZ INSTITUTE.

9d) VOX: Katie Tidaback

It was really fun to meet other singers from different parts of the country and get to sing with them and just kinda jam to a song and, you know, hear people improvise. It was cool. We all really got into it.

9ALT) VOX: Brendon Clayton

Everything was helpful. Everything they had to offer we were soaking it in like a sponge. Joe Temperly has been looking for me and I've been looking for him, cause I asked him a few questions about the bari, baritone saxophone and he was going to work with me on it.

9a ALT) PIERCE:

BRENDON CLAYTON PLAYS BARITONE SAX WITH THE BAND FROM WAUWATOSA EAST HIGH SCHOOL IN WISCONSIN.

10) PIERCE:

AS ARTS PROGRAMS SUFFER FROM BUDGET CUTS, SOME HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE LOST THEIR MUSIC PROGRAMS. COMMUNITY ENSEMBLES OFTEN KEEP THE MUSIC ALIVE FOR THESE STUDENTS. A SEPARATE CATEGORY WAS CREATED IN 2010 TO SHOWCASE THESE BANDS – ITS FIRST WINNER IS ARIZONA'S TUCSON JAZZ INSTITUTE.

HERE'S THAT BAND – IN THE SPOTLIGHT – ON THE ROSE THEATER STAGE.

11) MUSIC: NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS (4:18)

12) PIERCE:

MARY LOU WILLIAMS' – "NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS." FROM THE 2010 ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON-WINNING COMMUNITY ENSEMBLE -- THE TUCSON JAZZ INSTITUTE WITH MUSICAL DIRECTOR DOUG TIDABACK.

13) Backstage

14) PIERCE:

THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL, OUR HOUSE OF SWING IS FILLED WITH A CONTAGIOUS ENERGY -- A MIX OF NERVES, SWEAT AND ADRENALIN.

RENOWNED MUSICIANS AND EDUCATORS WILL BE THE JUDGES FOR THIS COMPETITION -- BANDLEADER DAVID BERGER, BASSIST RODNEY WHITTAKER, PROFESSOR AND JAZZ ADVOCATE TED BUEHRER, SAXOPHONIST JIMMY HEATH AND JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, WYNTON MARSALIS.

THE EVENT ALSO PROVIDES COMRADERIE AND A KIND OF INSPIRATION THAT CAN'T BE TAUGHT.

IN 1996 THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA'S DISTINGUISHED BASSIST CARLOS HENRIQUEZ STRODE ONTO THE ROSE THEATER STAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME – AS A PARTICIPANT IN ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON FROM NEW YORK'S LAGUARDIA MUSIC AND ARTS HIGH SCHOOL. THIS YEAR, TROMBONIST CHRIS CRASNOW IS PLAYING WITH LAGUARDIA'S BAND:

15) VOX: Chris Crasnow

It feels like a more professional New York. Instead of just playing at school and stuff and just old folks homes and stuff like that now we played at the House of Swing. And we are going to continue to play more stuff in the future.

15A) VOX: CHRISTIAN LYMAN

For me at least, there are kids all over the country who share the same passion that I do and want to play jazz at a high level. And we're all friends. We're not rivals we're here to accomplish one goal. From the minute we got here kids were like hey man what do you play. Oh yeah man. We're all friends. It's hey, you're going to play at a high level. I can't wait to hear you.

16) PIERCE:

DRUMMER CHRISTIAN LYMAN WHO PLAYS FOR GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL – ONE OF THE ENSEMBLES WITH A STRONG RECORD HERE AT E.E. WE’LL HEAR FROM GARFIELD A BIT LATER

RIGHT NOW, WE’VE GOT THE BAND THAT WALKED TO ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON -- ALL OF FOUR BLOCKS FROM “FIORELLO H. LAGUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL OF MUSIC & ART AND PERFORMING ARTS” TO OUR HOUSE OF SWING.

17) MUSIC: NEVER NO LAMENT – (4:40)

18) PIERCE:

DUKE ELLINGTON’S ‘NEVER NO LAMENT.’ PLAYED ON THE STAGE OF THE ROSE THEATER – BY THE BAND FROM LAGUARDIA HIGH SCHOOL HERE IN MANHATTAN. ONE OF FIFTEEN FINALISTS IN THE 2010 ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL.

COMING UP WE’LL HEAR FROM THE THREE WINNING BANDS AND FIND OUT WHICH ONE COMES OUT ON TOP.

YOU CAN CHECK OUT THE WHOLE ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON PROGRAM AND FOLLOW THIS YEAR’S COMPETITION ONLINE AT JALC (DOT) ORG.

YOU’LL ALSO FIND THE WORDS BEHIND THE MUSIC IN OUR ‘**JAZZSTORIES**’ PODCASTS WHEN YOU VISIT J A L C (DOT) ORG BRING HOME THE SWING. (OR WE’LL BRING IT TO YOU RIGHT HERE. THIS IS JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER RADIO. I’M WENDELL PIERCE.

19) MIDBREAK

19a) MUSIC:

20) Backstage

20a) PIERCE:

THE HOPE OF THE ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON FESTIVAL IS TO FOSTER A LOVE OF JAZZ THAT STUDENTS WILL CARRY WELL BEYOND GRADUATION.

BUT, THE COMPETITION STILL COMES DOWN TO WHO SWINGS THE HARDEST. FIFTEEN BANDS COME TO NEW YORK. THE TOP THREE AMONG THEM ARE SELECTED TO PLAY A FINAL SET WITH WYNTON MARSALIS AS GUEST SOLOIST.

ONE SCHOOL HAS BEEN AMONG THE FINALISTS EVERY YEAR SINCE 1997.

21) VOX: Steve Massey

I think we've strived for a long time, to develop a culture of musical excellence. There's a lot of work that goes into that, by a lot of people. and a lot of support by administration. So that enables us to continue to offer students high level of musical experiences.

22) PIERCE:

STEVE MASSEY – DIRECTOR OF THE FOXBORO MASSACHUSETTS HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND. THEY START THEIR SET WITH DUKE ELLINGTON'S "PORTRAIT OF LOUIS ARMSTRONG" FEATURING SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD MATT MUIRHEAD ON TRUMPET. REMEMBER THAT NAME, MATT MUIRHEAD -- I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL BE HEARING FROM HIM AGAIN.

23) MUSIC: Portrait of Louis Armstrong (3:28)

24) MUSIC: Lady Mac (4:26)

25) PIERCE:

DUKE ELLINGTON'S 'PORTRAIT OF LOUIS ARMSTRONG' AND 'LADY MAC' – FROM FOXBORO HIGH SCHOOL'S JAZZ BAND – OUR THIRD PLACE WINNERS IN THE 2010 ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON FESTIVAL.

WHILE FOXBORO HIGH SCHOOL HAS BEEN REGULAR PRESENCE AT E.E - ANOTHER SCHOOL HAD BEEN SUBMITTING TAPES FOR A FEW YEARS -- TRYING FOR THAT ELUSIVE INVITATION TO THE BIG APPLE. THINGS FINALLY CAME TOGETHER IN 2010.

26) VOX: Brandon Lubian

The difference was the band became, just, like one. Like previous years, like, we were individually worried about things. But this year, it was all about the music, not about ourselves, it became a family. We're closer than we've ever been. So I think that's what did it.

My name is Brandon Lubian. I attend Dillard Center for the Arts., Jazz Ensemble. I play the bari sax. I'm a junior.

27) PIERCE:

BRANDON LUBAN WHO PLAYS BARITONE SAX FOR DILLARD SCHOOL OF THE ARTS.

SOME OF OUR COMPETITORS HAVE WELL-ESTABLISHED JAZZ PROGRAMS THAT ARE DECADES OLD, BUT DILLARD'S JAZZ ENSEMBLE IS FAIRLY NEW. CHRISTOPHER DORSEY HAS BEEN CONDUCTING THE BAND FOR SIX YEARS.

27a) VOX: Christopher Dorsey

the challenge was getting the kids to buy into it. Getting them to want to do jazz and that is not always easy. With our young people. We started going to some local things. From there it built up

the difference this year was, uh, we just kept working hard. Just getting into the music and getting the commitment from the kids. The kids have to be committed from august

27b) PIERCE:

FOR 2010, DILLARD, IN THEIR FIRST NEW YORK APPEARANCE,
CLINCHED SECOND PLACE.

28) VOX: Christopher Dorsey

It's an honor, it's an honor and a privilege to be on this stage with these 20 students. Beatrice Anderson thank you for hosting us. Now, down to the business we are here for. They said we're in the house of swing, Dillard Center for the Arts is getting ready to swing.

29) MUSIC: Feet Bone (6:45)

30) MUSIC: Oclupaca (5:20)

31) PIERCE:

MARY LOU WILLIAMS' 'FEET BONE' AND DUKE ELLINGTON'S
'OCLUPACA' -- A LESSON IN SWING.

THE DILLARD HIGH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS BAND FROM FORT
LAUDERDALE , BRINGING THE ROSE THEATER AUDIENCE TO ITS FEET.
CHRISTOPHER DORSEY AT THE HELM.

OUR FINAL ENSEMBLE WILL BE FAMILIAR TO FOLLOWERS OF
"ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON". THEY ARE A WEST COAST MAINSTAY AND
WERE THE 2009 CHAMPIONS. BUT WE JUST HEARD A NEWCOMER TAKE
SECOND PLACE. WITH THE STIFF COMPETITION HERE, NOTHING CAN
BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED

32) VOX: Ben Brock drums

you know at the beginning of the school year, I didn't know if we could make it here. Because last year they did so well, I didn't know if we could top it.

33) PIERCE:

BEN BROCK IS THE DRUMMER FOR GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL'S BAND FROM SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.

THE SEATTLE AREA HAS BEEN FERTILE GROUND FOR HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BANDS. IN 2008, FIVE OF THE FIFTEEN INVITED BANDS CAME FROM THAT RAINY REGION.

33a) VOX: Riley Mulherkar

As a town, it's the directors Mr. Acox and Mr. Nate who is one of the directors of the middles schools in Seattle and they've created a local environment were all the local high schools have great jazz programs.

34) Pierce :

GARFIELD'S TRUMPETER RILEY MULHERKAR HAS BEEN PLAYING IN SEATTLE SCHOOLS SINCE THE THIRD GRADE.

33a) VOX: Riley Mulherkar

last year we made the finals and played Black and Tan Fantasy with Wynton Marsalis and Sherman Irby. And then, after that we found out that we did win last year. And it was great, we celebrated and ended up playing basketball with Wynton Marsalis at two in the morning.

34) PIERCE:

THIS IS GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL WITH THE PERFORMANCE DEFENDING THEIR FIRST PLACE TITLE --IN THE 2010 ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL.

35) MUSIC: Launching Pad (7:28)

36) MUSIC: New Musical Express (2:20)

37) PIERCE:

MARY LOU WILLIAM'S 'NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS' AND DUKE ELLINGTON'S 'LAUNCHING PAD.' ON THE ROSE THEATER STAGE. THE GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND FROM SEATTLE WASHINGTON,

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CLARENCE ACOX -- FIRST PLACE WINNERS
OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL, 2010 ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON
COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL.

38) VOX: Riley Mulherkar

I didn't think we would be that good, but actually we played so well throughout
the year. After this performance I feel really good.)

39) Pierce:

"LAUNCHING PAD -- BY DUKE ELLINGTON-- AND MARY LOU
WILLIAMS' 'NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS. THE GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
BAND.

40) VOX: Riley Mulherkar

I didn't think we would be that good, but actually we played so well throughout
the year--After this performance I feel really good.

41) Pierce:

GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL TRUMPETER RILEY MULHERKAR WHO
HAD LOTS TO CELEBRATE -- BECAUSE HE ALSO TOOK HOME
ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON'S "ELLA FITZGERALD OUTSTANDING SOLOIST"
AWARD.

BUT THEY WERE NOT THE ONLY WINNERS. EACH OF OUR FIFTEEN
HIGH SCHOOL BANDS AND THE TUCSON COMMUNITY JAZZ INSTITUTE
SHOWED THE DETERMINATION, DEDICATION AND DELIGHT IN THE
MUSIC THAT IS AT THE HEART OF ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON.

THIS ANNUAL COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL IS OPEN TO ALL HIGH
SCHOOL BANDS IN THE U.S. AND CANADA. AND THE SCORES AND
RECORDINGS PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE. AND THIS YEAR AN
ESSAY ELEMENT HAS BEEN ADDED AS WELL

YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ESSENTIALLY
ELLINGTON PROGRAM AND WATCH THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION UNFOLD
AT JALC (DOT) ORG.

YOU CAN ALSO HEAR OUR **JAZZSTORIES** PODCASTS AND ARCHIVED PROGRAMS THERE. SO BRING HOME THE SWING – AT J A L C (DOT) ORG.

42) PIERCE:

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER RADIO IS PRODUCED AT MURRAY STREET. THIS PROGRAM WAS WRITTEN BY ALEXA LIM WHO PRODUCES THE SERIES WITH DAVID GOREN AND STEPHEN RATHE. THE INTERVIEWS WERE RECORDED BY MARGARET BRESNAHAN, MATTHEW LONG-MIDDLETON AND ALEXA LIM.

THE RECORDINGS WERE MIXED AT XM PRODUCTIONS BY ROB MACOMBER. ADDITIONAL RECORDING AT AUDIO WORKS. YOU CAN HEAR THIS PROGRAM OR ANY PROGRAM IN OUR ARCHIVES AT JALC DOT ORG SLASH JAZZ CAST.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER IS ADRIAN ELLIS. CAT HENRY SUPERVISES RECORDING AND BROADCASTS. THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR IS WYNTON MARSALIS. I' M WENDELL PIERCE. THANKS FOR JOINING US.