

Great Moments in *Essentially Ellington* History:

May 1996 – the first *EE* Competition & Festival, featuring 10 NYC-area bands, is held at Alice Tully Hall.

September 1997 - the Jazz at Lincoln Center Library publishes the first *Essentially Ellington* charts. Now 86 titles strong, these transcriptions of original recordings are available from music dealers worldwide.

September 1998 - the *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Program opens membership to bands from all 50 states.

April 29, 1999 – Duke Ellington’s 100th Birthday and kick-off of the *EE* Competition & Festival with more than 500 musicians performing “C-Jam Blues,” including 20 finalist bands and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra on the Plaza at Lincoln Center.

July 2000 – the first Band Director Academy is held in Snowmass, CO.

August 2001 - *Essentially Ellington* Down Under in Western Australia (1 year).

May 2005 - *Essentially Ellington* celebrates its 10th year with the first Competition & Festival in Frederick P. Rose Hall, and reaches milestones of more than 65,000 scores distributed to high schools and more than 250,000 students introduced to Duke’s music through this program.

March 2006 - The first *Essentially Ellington* Regional Festivals are held at UNC-Chapel Hill and Temple University. These non-competitive festivals allow more *EE* bands to work with JALC clinicians and actively participate in the program.

October 2006 – In collaboration with the Calgary Association of the Development of Music Educators (CADME), JALC presents the Band Director Academy in Alberta, Canada.

April 2007 - *CHOPS*, a documentary, premieres at the Tribeca Film Festival. The film features the *Essentially Ellington* program and the experience of students in one high school jazz band through their *EE* journey.

September 2007 – *EE* online resources expanded to include teaching guides and streaming videos of Wynton Marsalis leading the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra as they rehearse the *EE* repertoire for that year.

September 2008 - Non-Ellington music is introduced into the annual *EE* repertoire with three charts by Benny Carter. Other composer/arrangers include Mary Lou Williams and Count Basie.

February 2009 - 80 students submit essays discussing Jazz and Democracy for the *Essentially Ellington* Essay Contest.

June 2009 – Band Director Academy celebrates its 10th year with a four-day session, “The Essentials of Teaching Jazz.” 690 band directors have attended a Band Director Academy workshop over the 10 years of the program.

May 2010 – *EE* celebrates 15 years, and the winning community ensemble is invited to the Festival for an exhibition performance for the first time. The 100th birthday of Mary Lou Williams, featured composer in this year’s program, coincides with the first day of the Competition & Festival. Online survey and *EE* profiles projects help reconnect *EE* participants with the program and gauge the impact of *EE* over the years.

