



The Duke Ellington Society (TDES, Inc.)
 Celebrating the music of Duke Ellington

Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at 7:30PM
 Saint Peter's Church; 54th St. & Lexington Ave

Essentially Ellington at Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC)

Many of us have enjoyed the *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band competition at Jazz at Lincoln Center, but few of us know how it operates and how it came to be. Our two guests for the April meeting do know, and they will tell us the history of the program, describe the process of mentoring and evaluating student bands, and provide some behind-the scenes information.



Erika S. Floreska (right) is Director of Education at JALC and oversees *Essentially Ellington*, as well as more than twenty annual programs. She has been with JALC since 1997.

Joanna Massey (left) is Assistant Director of Education at JALC and oversees performance-based education programming, including the *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band program. She has been with JALC since 2005.

The Competition and Festival, held each May, is the culmination of the year-long *Essentially Ellington* program, during which members are invited to submit a recording and 15 finalist high bands are selected through a rigorous screening process. The *Seattle Times* called it “the Cadillac of high school jazz competitions.”

Above all, the *Essentially Ellington* competition encourages young people to play and to listen to the music we love. It is an important way to continue the music and to keep it and its modern innovations moving into this century.

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