



ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON

2026 ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON

COMMENTS ONLY RECORDING AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

This chart will guide you through the *Essentially Ellington* Comments Only submission process. Please read through the Guidelines carefully before completing your application form and recording submission. Feel free to contact us at **212.258.9861** or **ee@jazz.org** if you have any questions concerning your entry.

You are encouraged to make a recording of your band performing one, two or three charts, no matter what your level of ensemble or experience. Every submission receives thorough qualitative and quantitative comments from our recording adjudicators.

SUBMISSION DUE DATE

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 BY 11:59PM EST

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted online via [Acceptd](#) at app.getacceptd.com/jalc

REPERTOIRE OPTIONS

Bands may select 1, 2 OR 3 tunes from the *Essentially Ellington* library. All titles published through the *Essentially Ellington* library are eligible for submission. You may include the music of Benny Carter, Melba Liston, Mary Lou Williams, Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie, Gerald Wilson, Tadd Dameron, Gerry Mulligan and Chick Webb with your submission. For a full list of music in the *EE* library, [click here](#). Repertoire should be played to the best of your ability and in the spirit of swing.



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INSTRUMENTATION AND SUBSTITUTIONS • CHANGING THE ARRANGEMENT

You may include or exclude players as you see fit. Substitution of instruments is acceptable, as long as the students enjoy playing the music. Be aware that substitutions may have an impact on your band.

You may make changes to arrangements, so long as they maintain the integrity of the original piece and the style of that composer. If material is added that does not produce the same spirit and intent as the original, the power of the music is weakened.

You may choose to:

- Feature soloists other than those indicated;
- Extend solo sections; or
- Add introductions as is appropriate to this style of music.

However, you do not need to make these types of changes to have a successful recording—more is not necessarily better. You want to make choices that best showcase your band.

For more information and ideas, please refer to our *Essentially Ellington* website at www.jazz.org/ee

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Students must be in grades 9–12, enrolled in high school, and between the ages of 13 and 19. If necessary to complete parts, you may substitute older or younger players.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION AND RECORDINGS

COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM AND UPLOAD YOUR RECORDINGS

You must complete an online Application on our Acceptd page at app.getacceptd.com/jalc

Once you have created an account through Acceptd and begin an application, you will be prompted to upload your recording(s). Please be sure to include appropriate recording information, including title, composer, personnel and soloists.

PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROGRAM

When providing a brief description of your school or organization's jazz program within the application, please include the following information:

- Program history/background
- Student make-up
- Rehearsal schedule
- Highlights of the past two seasons/school years
- How you've used *Essentially Ellington* music—performances, classroom activities, resources used, etc.
- Describe your program's greatest assets and its greatest needs
- Short biography of the band director teaching and/or performing experience

SUBMISSION

All submissions must be received by **11:59PM EST on Friday, April 10, 2026.**