



Duke Ellington

school of the arts

The Duke Ellington School of the Arts developed from the collaborative efforts between Peggy Cooper Cafritz and Mike Malone, founders of Workshops for Careers in the Arts in 1968. Workshops grew to become the Duke Ellington School of the Arts at Western High School in 1974—an accredited four-year public high school program combining arts and academics. At its start, Ellington represented a partnership between the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and The Ellington Fund—a non-profit organization that has since raised millions of dollars to supplement money allocated to Ellington by the District of Columbia Public School System. This partnership between the public school system and a private non-profit organization worked to ensure the highest level of academic and artistic training opportunities for Ellington students. In September 2000, the Ellington partnership evolved into the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Project (DESAP) to include the District of Columbia Public Schools, The Ellington Fund, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and The George Washington University. The goal of DESAP continues Ellington's tradition of providing high school students with an educational experience that includes college preparatory academics, pre-professional artistic training, and access to the cultural and intellectual resources of the District of Columbia.

The following are ensemble groups that may be requested using our Performance Request form at EllingtonSchool.org. All ensemble availability is subject to preparation, prior engagements, and curriculum priority.

Show Choir- was organized in 1986 by Samuel L.E. Bonds and has performed in the US, Germany, Paris, London, Japan, and the Caribbean. They debuted at Carnegie Hall in 2007 and recently performed for Barack Obama's pre-inaugural celebration at the Lincoln Memorial. The ensemble consists of approximately 35 students. *Director – Samuel L.E. Bonds*

Sophisticated Ladies – All female vocal group consisting of 24 - 40 students performing various styles of music, who also incorporate movement into their performances. *Director – Angela Powell Walker*

Dukes of Ellington- All male vocal group consisting of 18-20 students performing various styles of music, who also incorporate movement into their performances. *Director – Samuel L.E. Bonds*

Concert Chorale - is the largest (regularly meeting) vocal ensemble, made up mostly of vocal majors at the second, third, and fourth-year level. The Concert Choir performs a wide variety of music, including classical, spirituals, gospel, and traditional choral music. Includes approximately 60 students. *Director – Samuel L.E. Bonds*

R Street Collective- The Literary Media and Communications performance ensemble. This is the body that we send out to speak to a multitude of issues as they pertain to the constituencies that the Duke Ellington School of the Arts engages with/dialogues with. Their charge is the critique/interrogation and dialogue with/and representation of any issue that they are asked to consider. Within that, New Media/technology and the language of space from the student perspective is engaged. Performances can last from 20 to 45 minutes, and the work of the ensemble can be tailored to event. *Director – Mark Williams*

Duke Ellington Dance Ensemble - Composed of 3rd and 4th year dance majors. Their repertoire includes African, Modern, modern Jazz and Classical Ballet. DEDE has garnered critical acclaim for their performances in Canada, Bermuda, California, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Florida. They are always a crowd pleaser and in popular demand. See for yourself and you decide. *Director – Charles Augins*

New Washingtonians Jazz Orchestra - A jazz studies program led by Davey Yarborough, saxophonist and Instrumental Music department chair. The ensemble studies instrumental music specializing in jazz curriculum to ensure their musical and improvisational development. Includes approximately 20 students. A smaller Jazz Ensemble can be provided up on request. *Director – Davey Yarborough*

String Ensemble – The string orchestra consists of sixteen string players including violinists, violists, and double bassists. There is also a smaller ensemble of six string players. The students can perform a short concert or background music at events. The string ensemble has played at the Kennedy Center and at the White House. String music is the perfect addition to an elegant event. *Director – Heather Haughn*

Full Orchestra (Strings, Winds and Percussion) – This ensemble consists of 45 to 60 members and performs a varied repertoire to include but not limited to baroque, classical, romantic, twentieth century, patriotic to current orchestral musical literature. In addition to traditional orchestral literature, this flexible ensemble also specializes in pops orientated music. *Director – Isaac Daniel*

There are several possible smaller ensembles whom can support your event. Each can be combined into various ensembles depending on availability and the needs of your request.

Same Instrument Ensembles –

Trumpet ensemble (three to six instrumentalists)

Guitar ensemble (two to six instrumentalists)

Flute ensemble (five to six instrumentalists)

Percussion ensemble (two to six instrumentalists)

Saxophone ensemble (four to five instrumentalists)

Mixed Ensembles –

Guitar or Piano and Woodwind instrument (Flute, Saxophone, or Clarinet)

Guitar or Piano and String instrument (Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass)

Brass Ensemble (two trumpets, French horn, Trombone, and Tuba)