

Teacher's Guide for **AJW presents Ella Fitzgerald – The First Lady of Jazz**

The AJW's mission is to perform for and with public school students in order to encourage their participation in band, orchestra, and choir programs; to uphold and promote the American jazz tradition; and to enhance quality of life for all ages through live performances employing area musicians and collaborations with nonprofit organizations and student ensembles in central Texas.

AJW celebrates **31 YEARS** in the schools with ***Ella Fitzgerald – The First Lady of Jazz***, featuring jazz songs from her lengthy career.

Workshop Logistics:

You will be contacted by your workshop clinician about two weeks prior to your scheduled assembly. Ideally, workshops should take place during the assembly week, on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. Performances are Thursdays or Fridays.

If you do not hear from your clinician in a timely manner, call/text or email Terrance McDaniel at 806-676-1652 or terrance@austinjazzworkshop.org.

Workshops are aimed at grade levels three and higher, with a budget of three class periods per campus. You are welcome to bring in classes from other special areas. Workshops are an opportunity for your students to get acquainted with jazz concepts and history before the assembly, but they are not required for students to enjoy the show.

Classroom Workshop Logistics:

Our clinician will need a laptop/desktop with PowerPoint viewing capability from flash drive that we provide. Some clinicians may bring their personal laptop to hook into your AV. Teachers need to provide a means of projecting video and audio in the classroom.

Assembly Performance Logistics:

This year's group is a sextet consisting of vocals, saxophone, trumpet, keyboard, bass, and drums. Please provide three chairs and a means of projecting lyrics for two sing-alongs this year: *A-Tisket, A-Tasket* and *It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*. There is no need to provide PA or sound during the assembly performance. The band provides sound.

For floor seating, students should be seated with a three-foot-wide aisle down the center of the audience if possible. The AJW most often sets up on the floor, not onstage, to allow the stage to be used for a projection screen for song lyrics. There will also be students brought up, so that's another reason to have an aisle.

The following is intended to help you prepare your students for the Austin Jazz Workshop experience on your campus. It is divided into three parts: **Classroom Prep** (optional, done by you before the clinician's visit), **Workshop Experience** (done by the AJW clinician in your classroom), and **Performance Experience** (done by the full group during the assembly).

Classroom Prep for *A-Tisket, A-Tasket* and *It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*. (optional):

Sheet music and practice recordings for both tunes are available for download from our website (austinjazzworkshop.com) by clicking the “Workshops” tab.

Students will sing both numbers during the concert, and some will be brought up to ‘conduct’ during *It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*.

Workshop Experience for *A-Tisket, A-Tasket* and *It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*:

The clinician will lead your classes in singing these songs from our PowerPoint recordings, with lyrics projected.

Performance Experience for *A-Tisket, A-Tasket* and *It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*:

A-Tisket, A-Tasket will be sung by the audience from their seats. For *It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*, some students will be brought up to participate and be in on the action with the band.

Both numbers will have lyrics projected for the audience to sing along.

Workshop Sections are as follows:

Terms for this year: *Improvisation, Scatting & Quoting*. The clinician will demonstrate improvisation and lead kids in the Scatting & Quoting pattern of Ella Fitzgerald’s vocal style.

Demonstration of the clinician’s instrument.

Historical Context: Fitzgerald’s unique singing style came together out of three musical era: Swing from the Big Band era, Scatting & Quoting from the Small Group era and Classic Interpretations from the Songbook era. The clinician will give an overview of these eras.

Question/Answer: The clinician will leave some time for questions at the end of the presentation. During this section, the clinician will encourage students to become involved in band, orchestra, and choir programs in middle school.

Video Selections: YouTube access is needed for video clips, time permitting.

A-Tisket, A-Tasket – Ella Fitzgerald featured in the Abbott & Costello film *Ride ‘Em Cowboy*

Improvising, Scatting & Quoting – Ella Fitzgerald featured in the NPR series *Jazz Night*

For Further Listening

There are hundreds of great Ella Fitzgerald tunes. Here is a sampling:

Playlist include:

Ella Fitzgerald, *iTunes Music Essentials*

Ella Fitzgerald, *Spotify Ella Fitzgerald Greatest Hits*

Albums include:

Ella Fitzgerald, *Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Cole Porter Song Book*

Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong, *Ella & Louis*

Songs include:

Ella Fitzgerald, *Blue Skies*

Ella Fitzgerald, *How High the Moon (Live in Berlin/1960)*

Ella Fitzgerald, *Cotton Tail (Live at Cote D'Azur, France/1966)*

Questions? Contact Terrance McDaniel

Text to 806-676-1652 or terrance@austinjazzworkshop.org.