



**Duke Ellington And His Famous Orchestra
The Concert At The Pleyel, Paris, 1958**

It is always a great joy to discover a previously unissued recording by any of the great names in Jazz. To discover a recording of a complete concert by Duke Ellington and his Famous Orchestra is a very great joy indeed.

The discs run in sequence and include introductions and various asides by Duke Ellington including an attempt to relay a greeting in French to a member of the audience. The only omission being Honeysuckle Rose which suffered from phasing problems which were too difficult to correct even using modern digital technology. For students of such matters the overall sound quality of the concert is so good it would have ruined what should otherwise become a classic Duke Ellington Set.

Disc two picks up where disc one leaves off and completes the rest of the concert. The orchestra is in peak form and probably contains the finest line up of musicians that ever graced a Duke Ellington band. This is evidenced by the many solos taken by the likes of Johnny Hodges, William "Cat" Anderson, Ray Nance, Harold "Shorty" Baker and all the other luminaries of what was one of the world's greatest Jazz Bands. Forget the old studio recordings, those scratchy 78's and listen to the band performing live extended versions of those classic numbers. Hear the Duke lead in with that nasal moan which he used to lay down the beat and enjoy with the enthusiastic audience one of jazz history's great events.

On disc two the concert takes up where the "previous disc finishes. Both the audience and the band have now warmed up and the Duke launches us into a spirited version of *El Gato* featuring the cat himself, William "Cat" Anderson.

The second number on disc two is an unusual extended two part version of

Take The "A" Train. The first part enables Ray Nance to have a break from his trumpet playing and exercise his vocal chords, the second part is the more usual instrumental version, drawing some excellent solos from the band.

There follows a lengthy version of *M.C. Blue* (M.C. standing for Multi coloured) with Ozzie Bailey performing the vocal part.

Jam With Sam and *Stompy Jones* were originally intended to run together as one lengthy performance but the enthusiastic audience picks up the end of *Jam With Sam* and breaks the intended smooth transition with applause.

Hi Fi Fo Fum enables Sam Woodyard to display his virtuosity on the drums, without being extravagant or flashy he manages to show the Jazz drummer at his best.

Every Duke Ellington concert seems to have had its medley and this is no exception. The Duke leads us down memory lane and reminds us of some of his many all time hits. Like a man perusing an old photo album he nibbles at a few bars of some songs and elaborates on others.

The concert reaches its conclusion with a powerful version of *Hawk Talks*. The applause is tumultuous and fades and this short memory of 1958 and Duke Ellington are gone.

John R. Bennett.

If you have enjoyed this recording and are interested in Big Band Jazz and other nostalgic recordings of the period, you can obtain a free listing and updates to our catalogue by writing to:

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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA - THE CONCERT AT THE PLEYEL, PARIS

Disc One:

1. Take The Train
(Billy Strayhorn) 3:07
2. Black And Tan Fantasie/Creole Love
Song/The Mooch 9:31
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington)
Soloists:- Ray Nance, Russell Procope,
Harold "Shorty" Baker, Quentin Jackson.
3. Harlem Air Shaft 3:30
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington)
Soloist:- Clark Terry.
4. Tenderly 5:31
(Walter Gross-Jack Lawrence)
Soloist:- Jimmy Hamilton.
5. Jeep's Blues 4:19
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington- Johnny Hodges)
Soloist:- Johnny Hodges.
6. The Sunny Side Of The Street 2:48
(Jimmy McHugh-Dorothy Fields)
Soloist:- Johnny Hodges.
7. C Jam Blues 4:85
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Leon
Albany "Barney" Bigard
8. Duke's Place 2:56
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Bob Katz-
Bob Thiele)
Vocalist:- Ozzie Bailey.
9. Rockin' Rhythm 6:15
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Irving Mills)
10. Such Sweet Thunder 3:47
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Billy Strayhorn)
11. Caravan 6:38
(Juan Tizol-Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-
Irving Mills)
12. Newport Up 4:49
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Billy Strayhorn)
Soloists:- Jimmy Hamilton, Clark Terry,
Paul Gonsalves.

Disc Two:

2. Take The "A" Train 6:31
(Billy Strayhorn)
Vocalist:- Ray Nance.
3. M.C. Blue 6:24
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington)
Vocalist:- Ozzie Bailey.

4. V.I.P. Boogie 3:09
(Edward Kennedy "Duke Ellington)
Soloists:- Harry Carney, William "Cat" Andersen.
5. Jam With Sam 3:27
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington)
Soloists:- Harold "Shorty" Baker, Russell Procope,
William "Cat" Andersen, Paul Gonsalves, Britt Woodman,
Quentin Jackson.
6. Stompy Jones 3:50
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington)
7. Hi Fi Fo Fum 9:26
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington)
Soloist:- Sam Woodyard.
8. Medley Includes:- 16:08
Don't Get Around Much Anymore
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Bob Russell)
Do Nothing Till You Hear From Me
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington)
Mood Indigo
(Barney Bigard-Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-
Irving Mills)
I'm Beginning To See The Light
(Don George-Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-
Harry James-Johnny Hodges)
Sophisticated Lady
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Irving Mills-
Mitchell Parish)
I've Got It Bad And That Ain't Good
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Paul Francis Webster)
Caravan
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Irving Mills-
Juan Tizol)
Just Squeeze Me
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Lee Gaines)
It Don't Mean A Thing
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington)
Satin Doll
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Billy Strayhorn-
Johnny Mercer)
Solitude
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington-Eddie DeLange-
Irving Mills)
I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart
(Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington)
9. Hawk Talks 3:15
(Louie Bellson)



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Indigo/I'm Beginning To See The Light/
Sophisticated Lady/I've Got It Bad And That
Ain't Good/Caravan/Just Squeeze Me/It Don't
Mean A Thing/Satin Doll/Solitude/I Let A Song
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