

## DUKE ELLINGTON AND FRIENDS

In a certain sense, the closest friends of Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (b. 1899-d. 1974) were the members of his orchestra. For half a century, the immortal composer/arranger/pianist worked and traveled with — and wrote for — the people who made the orchestra his "instrument," and the *ne plus ultra* of large jazz ensembles.

With George Gershwin and Charles Ives, Ellington (who wrote well over 2000 pieces, essaying almost every form) belongs in the pantheon of 20th century American vernacular composers. This anthology contains nine of the most familiar songs written or co-authored by Duke, plus one lesser-known Ducal Swinger ("Stompy Jones," by a quintet co-led by the Maestro and his most celebrated soloist, Johnny Hodges) and "Take The 'A' Train," the band's theme, which was composed by Duke's alter ego, the formidable composer/arranger/pianist Billy Strayhorn (b. 1915-d. 1967).

In the spotlight are four of the orchestra's most invaluable players, all of whom were integral members of the landmark 1940-1942 edition. Trombonist Lawrence Brown (b. 1905) leads a rocking "Caravan," which was co-written by another eminent Ellington trombonist, Juan Tizol. Baritone saxophone king Harry Carney (b. 1910-d. 1974) renders a lush "I Got It Bad (And That Ain't Good)," which, like "Caravan," has been out-of-print for years. Ben Webster (b. 1909-d. 1973), the master melodist of the tenor saxophone, reprises "Cotton-tail," a specialty during his Ellington days; his patented breathy balladry caresses "Prelude To A Kiss," one of Ellington's most sensual creations. And Johnny Hodges (b. 1906-d. 1970), the lifelong romantic of the alto saxophone, evokes soft lights on "Mood Indigo" and "Satin Doll," then kindles the flame on "Don't Get Around Much Anymore."

Al Hibbler (b. 1915) Ellington's male singer for eight years, renders "I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart" (another long unavailable number), while Ella Fitzgerald (b. 1918), whose recordings and concerts with the orchestra make her an honorary Ellingtonian, joins Duke and his men for two flag wavers, "'A' Train," and "It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)."

These, then, are 11 golden threads in Duke Ellington's resplendent tapestry.

— James Isaacs

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833 291-2

# COMPACT JAZZ

## DUKE ELLINGTON & FRIENDS



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### 1. TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

(Billy Strayhorn)  
 ELLA FITZGERALD (vo) w. DUKE ELLINGTON  
 and his Orchestra: Cat Anderson, Willie Cook,  
 Clark Terry, Ray Nance, Dizzy Gillespie (tps.);  
 Quentin Jackson, Britt Woodman, John Sanders  
 (tbs); Jimmy Hamilton (clar or ts); Russell  
 Procope (as or clar); Johnny Hodges (as); Paul  
 Gonsalves, Frank Foster (ts); Harry Carney  
 (bars); Ellington (p); Jimmy Woode (b); Sam  
 Woodyard (d).  
 Rec. June 25-27, 1957 in NY.

### 2. CARAVAN

(Duke Ellington - Juan Tizol - Irving Mills)  
 LAWRENCE BROWN (tbn) w. Sam "The Man"  
 Taylor (ts); Leroy Lovett (p); Lloyd Trotman (b);  
 Louis Bellson (d).  
 Rec. Jan., 1956 in N.Y.

### 3. COTTONTAIL

(Duke Ellington)  
 BEN WEBSTER (ts) w. Oscar Peterson (p); Barney  
 Kessel (g); Ray Brown (b); J.C. Heard (d).  
 Rec. May 21, 1953 in NY.

### 4. MOOD INDIGO

(Duke Ellington - Barney Bigard - Irving Mills)  
 JOHNNY HODGES (as) w. Lawrence Brown (tb);  
 Harold "Shorty" Baker (tp); Arthur Clarke (ts);  
 Leroy Lovett (p); John Williams (b); Louis  
 Bellson (d).  
 Rec. Jan. 7, 1955 in NY.

### 5. I LET A SONG GO OUT OF MY HEART

(Duke Ellington - Henry Nemo - John Redmond -  
 Irving Mills)  
 AL HIBBLER (vo) w. Leroy Lovett and his  
 Orchestra: Taft Jordan, Bob Johnson, Bill Scott

(tps); Ted Kelly, George Matthews (tbn); Hilton  
 Jefferson, George Dorsey (as); Pizza Simon (ts);  
 Haywood Henry (bars); Lovett (p); Lloyd Trotman  
 (b); Billy Smith (d).  
 Rec. Feb. 11, 1954 in NY.

### 6. PRELUDE TO A KISS

(Duke Ellington - Irving Gordon - Irving Mills)  
 BEN WEBSTER (ts) w. Jimmy Hamilton (clar);  
 Danny Bank (bars); Teddy Wilson (p); Wendell  
 Marshall (b); Louis Bellson (d). Strings arr. and  
 cond. by Ralph Burns.  
 Rec. Dec. 14, 1954 in NY.

### 7. SATIN DOLL

(Duke Ellington - Billy Strayhorn - Johnny Mercer)  
 JOHNNY HODGES (as) w. Billy Strayhorn (p);  
 Jimmy Woode (b); Sam Woodyard (d).  
 Rec. Apr. 5, 1958 in NY.

### 8. STOMPY JONES

(Duke Ellington)  
 DUKE ELLINGTON (p) and JOHNNY HODGES (as)  
 w. Les Spann (g); Al Hall (b); Jo Jones (d).  
 Rec. Feb. 20, 1959 in NY.

### 9. I GOT IT BAD (AND THAT AIN'T GOOD)

(Duke Ellington - Paul Francis Webster)  
 HARRY CARNEY (bars) w. Tony Miranda (Fr hn);  
 Jimmy Hamilton (clar); Ray Nance (vln); Leroy  
 Lovett (p); Billy Bauer (g); Wendell Marshall (b);  
 Louis Bellson (d); plus 11 strings arr. and cond. by  
 Ralph Burns.  
 Rec. Dec. 14, 1954 in NY.

### 10. DON'T GET AROUND MUCH ANYMORE

(Duke Ellington - Bob Russell)  
 JOHNNY HODGES (as) w. BILLY STRAYHORN and  
 THE ORCHESTRA: Shorty Baker, Cat Anderson, Ed  
 Mullens, Bill Berry (tps); Lawrence Brown, Quentin

Jackson (tbs); Chuck Connors (bs tbn); Russell  
 Procope (as or clar); Paul Gonsalves, Jimmy Ham-  
 iltion (ts); Harry Carney (bars or bs clar); Jimmy  
 Jones (p); Aaron Bell (b); Sam Woodyard (d).  
 Rec. Dec. 11-12, 1961 in NY.

### 11. IT DON'T MEAN A THING (IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT SWING)

(Duke Ellington - Irving Mills)  
 ELLA FITZGERALD (vo) w. DUKE ELLINGTON and  
 his Orchestra: Cootie Williams, Cat Anderson,  
 Mercer Ellington, Herbie Jones (tps); Lawrence  
 Brown, Buster Cooper, Chuck Connors (tbs);  
 Johnny Hodges, Russell Procope (as); Jimmy  
 Hamilton, Paul Gonsalves (ts); Harry Carney (bars);  
 Ellington (p); John Lamb (b); Sam Woodyard (d).  
 Rec. July 26, 1966 live at the Antibes Jazz Festival,  
 Antibes, France.

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4 MOOD INDIGO 5 I LET A SONG GO OUT OF MY HEART  
6 PRELUDE TO A KISS 7 SATIN DOLL 8 STOMPY JONES  
9 I GOT IT BAD (AND THAT AIN'T GOOD)  
10 DON'T GET AROUND MUCH ANYMORE  
11 IT DON'T MEAN A THING  
(IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT SWING)

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## DUKE ELLINGTON & FRIENDS

Featuring

Duke Ellington  
Ella Fitzgerald  
Lawrence Brown  
Ben Webster  
Johnny Hodges  
Al Hibbler  
Harry Carney  
Billy Strayhorn

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. Take The "A" Train                                  | 6:38 |
| 2. Caravan   | 5:57 |
| 3. Cottontail  | 3:20 |
| 4. Mood Indigo   | 6:17 |
| 5. I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart                     | 2:42 |
| 6. Prelude To A Kiss                                   | 4:46 |
| 7. Satin Doll  | 5:01 |
| 8. Stompy Jones  | 6:38 |
| 9. I Got It Bad (And That Ain't Good)                  | 4:22 |
| 10. Don't Get Around Much Anymore                      | 3:00 |
| 11. It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing) | 7:10 |

Total Playing Time: 56:13

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