



## A PORTRAIT OF DUKE ELLINGTON

### DIZZY GILLESPIE AND HIS ORCHESTRA

1. IN A MELLOW TONE (Ellington)	3:44
2. THINGS AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE (Ellington-Persons)	4:50
3. SERENADE TO SWEDEN (Ellington)	4:23
4. CHELSEA BRIDGE (Strayhorn)	2:34
5. UPPER MANHATTAN MEDICAL GROUP (Strayhorn)	3:05
6. DO NOTHIN' TILL YOU HEAR FROM ME (Ellington-Russell)	2:38
7. CARAVAN (Ellington-Mills-Tizol)	5:18
8. SOPHISTICATED LADY (Ellington-Parish-Mills)	3:19
9. JOHNNY COME LATELY (Strayhorn)	3:35
10. PERDIDO (Tizol-Longsfelder-Drake)	4:47
11. COME SUNDAY (Ellington)	2:56

The juxtaposition of Duke Ellington with Dizzy Gillespie instantly strikes one as dramatic and potentially fruitful, and the explanation is not hard to discover. Both men rank among the few genuine original spirits of jazz, and each has proved himself a master of something more than the improvised solo on a chord sequence.

Ellington is the great Impressionist of jazz, a writer whose compositions possess a texture so unique that they can only adequately be described as Ellingtonian. Duke has been quoted as saying that "Remembrance of things past is important to a jazz musician," and although at first sight it may seem pretentious for a jazzman to invoke such Proustian commandments, an examination of Ellington's music, its qualities of nostalgia and reminiscence, its deep sensitivity and its fine sensibilities, reveals that Ellington's

musings about the past are something more than good copy for sleeve-note writers.

Gillespie is probably the first writer since Ellington to introduce a new big band concept with real jazz validity. This is not to discount Basie, Lunceford, Herman and the rest of the big legions, but the Dizzy Gillespie big band was something quite new. It was the expression through a large orchestra of the aesthetic of a new generation of jazz musicians. Melodically, harmonically, rhythmically, Gillespie's big bands were utterly different to anything that had gone before. Like Ellington, Gillespie the big-band leader, made jazz history.

Ellington's music, although often garnished with whimsical lyrics, usually turns out to be music designed for the recreation of the jazz muse. The sequences of Ellington originals have the

form and the pattern of true jazz material, and, most significant of all, jazz material as easily adapted to the harmonic demands of one generation as to the next. It is this astonishing universality of Duke's music which is the greatest testimony to its quality.

In this light, it seems no longer surprising for Dizzy Gillespie to record a whole programme of Ellington pieces. The material at hand is too rich to ignore, but it is obvious that when one original is interpreted by another original, the results will necessarily demand the closest scrutiny. And those results will be as different from previous Ellington interpretations as Dizzy the trumpeter is different from Rex Stewart, from Ray Nance, from Cootie Williams and from Clark Terry.

What in fact happens is that many of Duke's themes, distilled through the sensibilities of a jazz mind as subtle as

his own, take on a slightly new air. The nuances and the stresses are not quite those we were used to. "Things Ain't What They Used to Be" characterizes the transmutation. It is as basic a theme as one could find — the blues. And under Dizzy's hand, Duke's theme although instantly recognizable as itself, emerges as something else in addition, a Dizzy Gillespie blues.

That track is symbolic of the whole album, which is not just a portrait of Duke Ellington. A great artist reveals more of himself than he does of his sitter, and that is precisely what has happened here. There is the portrait of Duke, quite clear before our eyes. But next to it is another portrait, contrasted and complementary, a dazzling likeness of Dizzy Gillespie himself.

— BENNY GREEN  
*The Observer*, London

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*Personnel: Dizzy Gillespie, trumpet; Bennie Green, trombone; Robert de Dominicis, flute; Stan Webb, Paul Richie, John Murtaugh, Ernest Bright, woodwinds; Richard Berg, Ray Alonge, Joe Singer, French horns; John McAllister, tuba; George Devens, vibes; Hank Jones, piano; George Duvivier, bass; Charlie Persip, drums.*

*Arranged by Clare Fischer.*

*Produced by Norman Granz.*

*Recorded April 27-28, 1960 in New York.*



AAD

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- DDO** Digitales Tonbandgerät bei der Aufnahme, bei Schnitt und/oder Abmischung, bei der Überspielung.
- ADD** Analoges Tonbandgerät bei der Aufnahme; digitales Tonbandgerät bei Schnitt und/oder Abmischung und bei der Überspielung.
- AAD** Analoges Tonbandgerät bei der Aufnahme und bei Schnitt und/oder Abmischung; digitales Tonbandgerät bei der Überspielung.

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- ADD** Analogue tape recorder used during session recording; digital tape recorder used during subsequent mixing and/or editing and during mastering (transcription).
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- DDO** Utilisation d'un magnétophone numérique pendant les séances d'enregistrement, le mixage et/ou le montage et la gravure.
- ADD** Utilisation d'un magnétophone analogique pendant les séances d'enregistrement; utilisation d'un magnétophone numérique pendant le mixage et/ou le montage et la gravure.
- AAD** Utilisation d'un magnétophone analogique pendant les séances d'enregistrement et le mixage et/ou le montage, utilisation d'un magnétophone numérique pendant la gravure.

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Questa tecnica di registrazione è identificata sul retro della confezione da un codice di tre lettere:

- DDO** Si indica l'uso del registratore digitale durante le sedute di registrazione, mixage e/o editing, e masterizzazione.
- ADD** Sta ad indicare l'uso del registratore analogico durante le sedute di registrazione, e del registratore digitale per il successivo mixage e/o editing e per la masterizzazione.
- AAD** Riguarda l'uso del registratore analogico durante le sedute di registrazione, e del registratore digitale per il successivo mixage e/o editing, e del registratore digitale per la masterizzazione.

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