



Although renowned as a pianist, Ellington's real instrument was his band, being able to inspire unique, moving and innovative music from the many musicians with whom he worked.

Edward Kennedy Ellington was born in Washington on April 29th 1899 into a middle-class family. His father personally took charge of his education and encouraged him to take piano lessons at a very early age. He was christened 'Duke' when he was eight years old.

By 1920 Ellington was earning very good money and a reputation as a bandleader and booker of bands. The genius for composition also emerged in the early 20s and he started to write songs that would become jazz classics.

By the late 20s Ellington was a resident at the famous Cotton Club where the rich and famous, including Stravinsky and Gershwin would come especially to see the Duke perform.

In 1939 Ellington teamed up with the composer and arranger Billy Strayhorn - a partnership that would re-invent the art of jazz composition.

Throughout the 40s, 50s, and 60s Ellington continued to be at the peak of his profession working with some of the finest musicians - Paul Gonsalves, Jimmy Blanton, Ben Webster, Johnny Hodges, Charlie Mingus, John Coltrane and many others.

Ellington worked right up to within a few months of his death in 1974 leaving behind the most imposing body of work in jazz.

This collection presents a personal favourite selection of popular ballads and romantic pieces of work taken from various periods of Ellington's career.

They are moody, haunting, happy, sad, all are beautiful and moving and represent the mellow, soulful side of Duke Ellington.

Andrew Street. May 1997



*"My men and my race are the inspiration of my work.
I try to catch the character and mood and feeling
of my people."*

Duke Ellington 1931

Duke Ellington *mellow*

74321 487312

- 1. Do Nothing 'Till You Hear From Me**
(Ellington/Russell) EMI United Partnership Ltd.
- 2. Mood Indigo**
(Ellington/Mills/Bigard) EMI Music Publishing Ltd.
- 3. Chelsea Bridge**
(Strayhorn) Campbell Connelly & Co. Ltd.
- 4. Morning Glory**
(Ellington/Stewart) EMI United Partnership Ltd.
- 5. Sophisticated Lady**
(Ellington/Mills/Parish) ATV Music Ltd.
- 6. Blue Serge**
(Ellington) Campbell Connelly & Co. Ltd.
- 7. Black And Tan Fantasy**
(Ellington/Miley) EMI Music Publishing Ltd.
- 8. Perdido**
(Tizol/Drake/Lenk) Campbell Connelly & Co. Ltd.
- 9. Take The 'A' Train**
(Billy Strayhorn) Campbell Connelly & Co. Ltd.
- 10. In A Mellotone**
(Ellington) EMI United Partnership Ltd.
- 11. Moon Mist**
(Ellington) Campbell Connelly & Co. Ltd.
- 12. I Got It Bad And That Ain't Good**
(Ellington/Webster) EMI United Partnership Ltd.
- 13. Solitude**
(Ellington/Lange/Mills) J.R. LaFleur & Son Ltd.
- 14. Creole Love Call**
(Ellington) EMI Music Publishing Ltd.
- 15. Prelude To A Kiss**
(Gordon/Mills/Ellington) J.R. LaFleur & Son Ltd.
- 16. Midriff**
(Strayhorn) EMI United Partnership Ltd.
- 17. Across The Track Blues**
(Ellington) EMI United Partnership Ltd.
- 18. Sentimental Lady (I Didn't Know About You)**
(Ellington) EMI United Partnership Ltd.
- 19. Esquire Swank**
(Hodges/Ellington) EMI United Partnership Ltd.
- 20. In A Sentimental Mood**
(Ellington/Mills/Kurtz/Parish) J.R. LaFleur & Son Ltd.
- 21. Dusk**
(Ellington) EMI United Partnership Ltd.

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Duke Ellington *mellow*

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