

HUMPHREY
84

Helen Shapiro Humphrey Lyttelton



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Echoes of THE DUKE

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Helen Shapiro & Humphrey Lyttelton and his Band

ECHOES of the DUKE

Humphrey Lyttelton, trumpet, John Barnes, baritone, tenor, clarinet, bass clarinet, flute,
Randolph Colville, alto & clarinet, Pete Strange, trombone, Mick Pyne, piano, Paul Bridge, bass,
& Adrian Macintosh, drums.

Side One

- 1 Take me A Train (Bobby Strayhorn: Campbel Connolly)
- 2 I ain't get nothing but the blues (Ellington, Don George: F.D. & H.)
- 3 I got it bad if that ain't good (Lyttelton, Paul Webster: E.M. Morris)
- 4 Cross a busy street (Lyttelton: Humph Music)
- 5 Clarinet solo: Randolph Colville
- 6 Just squeeze me (Ellington, Lee Grimes: Robbins)
- 7 I let a song go out of my heart / Don't give around much any more (Ellington, John Reimann: Lawrence/Ellington, Art Ruvin: Robbins)
- 8 I don't mean a thing if I want art that swing (Ellington, Miller: L. Wright)

Side Two

- 1 Drop me off in Harlem (Ellington, Nick Kenny: Campbell Connolly)
- 2 Do something ill you hear from me! (Ellington, Russel: Robbins)
- 3 Prez! Nick! Kenny Graham: Humph Music
- 4 Ellington Solo: John Barnes
- 5 Solitude/Mood Indigo (Ellington, Eddie de Long: Ellington, Bimbi Bigard, Lafleur: L. Wright)
- 6 John n' I man & a rockin' (Ellington, Grimes: Robbins)
- 7 Echoes of the Duke (Lyttelton, Pyne, Humph Music)
- 8 Carravan (Ellington, Tizol: Lafleur)



In May 1984 my band played the annual Duke Ellington Memorial Concert at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. Producer Michael Webber had asked me to suggest a guest artist who would do justice to a great jazz event as well as offer an added attraction. By happy coincidence I had just read a glowing report of a new album by Helen Shapiro. It was by Dave Gelly, jazz reviewer of the Observer and not a man to endorse lightly. The report confirmed that the soprano's chart repertoire of the early sixties, where cello and voice always shared strong jazz potential, had developed into a fine interpreter of popular songs. When Helen's concert was a wild success and others have followed.

These are the thirteen Ellington songs which she learned for the show in so many days. In two of them derived from instrumental pieces, we have incorporated elements of the original in the vocal. In 'Just squeeze me', for example, there's a chorus from 'Never No Laundry' originally transcribed for us by Alan Cole, and in 'Do nothing ...' I play the open trumpet solo from 'Concerto for Coaster'.

Since most of the band numbers in the concert have been recorded elsewhere, we're put in three originals — each of which has dual solos. 'Cross a busy street', Randolph Colville's clarinet feature, shares a harmonic stable with 'Rose Room' — a Barney Bigard favourite — and Duke's own 'In a Melancholy'. Any piece by Kenny Graham reflects his devotion to the Duke, and 'Prez! Nick!' is no exception. The Strayhorn-ish melody of 'Echoes of the Duke' came into my head, complete, as I drove home from a gig on the night of the first session. Next day I played it over to Mick Pyne, who retires to a quiet corner and, in less than half an hour, came back with the harmonica worked out — and the finished arrangement.

For 'Just squeeze me' we gave Helen a backing group. The Shapériettes? No, perhaps not. Just John Barnes and Pete Strange. Percussion is Carravan is by the whole cast, and John Barnes is on clarinet here. All arrangements and transcriptions are by Pete Strange.



Produced by Humphrey Lyttelton & Ted Taylor
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on November 21 & 22, 1984

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