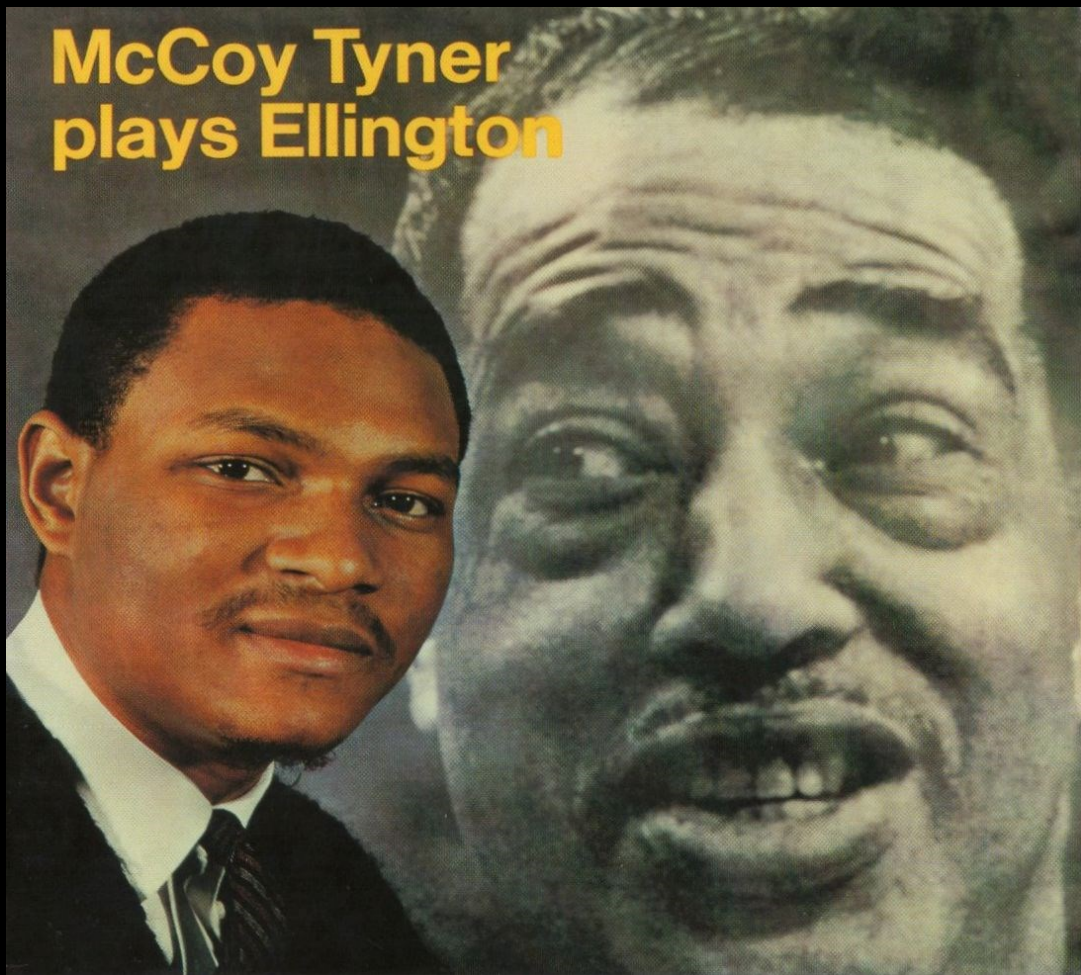


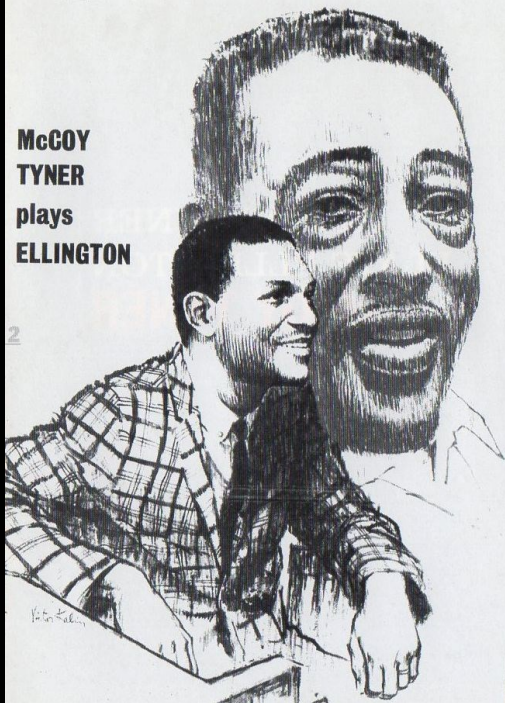
**McCoy Tyner
plays Ellington**





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PLAYS ELLINGTON
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McCoy Tyner plays Ellington **McCOY TYNER**

Tyner, accompanied by his regular rhythm associates in John Coltrane's group, offers a special program made up of two important influences in modern jazz — Duke Ellington's compositions and John Coltrane's harmonic conceptions as applied to the piano. The Latin percussion is added for flavoring.

After almost four years as the regular pianist with Coltrane, Tyner has assimilated harmonic ideas from the avant-garde tenor saxophonist, and in the process has developed a pianistic style of his own. Here he puts a modern cloak around several of the older Ellington standards like *Solitude* (1934), *Caravan* (1937), and *Satin Doll* (1953). His interpretations, interspersed with frequent statements of the original melody, are proof positive of the enduring qualities of Ellington's music and its adaptability to further explorations.

The opening track, **Duke's Place**, is ideal for setting the mood for this album. It is a tune, published in 1958, as a vocal rendition set to music based on Ellington's *C Jam Blues* (1942). In this interpretation, the listener is immediately brought into the world of Ellingtonia and in spots expects to hear the full band come in after a familiar piano introduction. Tyner's crisp notes, served up with an occasional trill, are accompanied by a unique rhythm pulse throughout. The rhythm which also includes an introduction with some good bass work by Garrison is essentially a combination of the Latin men and Jones performing on metal surfaces.

On **Caravan**, Tyner is driven along in spots by the rolling affect of Jones's drums. There are several exciting variations in tempo. The Latin drummers aid and abet here on bongos. Note the rich variances in tonal color attained by the pianist.

The mood picture evoked by Tyner's **Solitude** is somewhat different from the old familiar version. Here, things are less somber, as Tyner picks up the tempo and swings with bright phrases in the treble.

Tyner embarks on the melodic line of **Searchin'** (previously unrecorded — composed by Duke in '59) as soon as the pick-up microphone is turned on and stays comparatively close to it all the way through the track. There are occasional departures, sometimes into inventive runs and trills, as the pianist is closely followed by the Latin drummers; percussionist Jones inserts frequent punctuation marks.

The six-minute rendition of **Mr. Gentle and Mr. Cool** that starts off Side II allows sufficient space for bassist Garrison to share honors with the pianist. He joins Tyner at the beginning and end of the track for a duet, during which the pianist plays the chimes-sound. Right before the closing duet, Garrison offers a long solo replete with inventive ideas. At first his solo is punctuated by light piano marks, that eventually build back to the chime-sounding notes as the bass solo dissolves into the duet. For his portion of the solo space, Tyner plays clean-resounding notes as Jones accompanies him on his cymbal lightly.

The lovely **Satin Doll** is given a more adventuresome treatment here than on McCoy's previous rendition of the number (Impulse A-39, **Nights of Ballads & Blues**). He sounds surer of his improvisations and feels freer to stray from the melodic line. Also his bell-tones are more sonorous. In fact, it is interesting to compare the two versions to note his development



during the past two years.

On the last track, **Gypsy Without A Song**, a short bass-drum introduction brings Tyner on for a five-minute solo during which he unleashes his ability to cover the keyboard with exciting two-handed piano. There are runs up and down, deft fingering, and spots where he relaxes into easy-going lyrical phrases.

This "edition" of McCoy Tyner is worth having, not only for the exciting talent of the pianist, but also as an example of the jazz opportunities inherent in the music of Duke Ellington.

The set illustrates what Horace Silver had in mind when, while listening to a Tyner record recently, he remarked, "I think he's one of the great young pianists of the day."

— GEORGE HOEFER
Associate Editor *Jazz Magazine*
Down Beat Columnist

[Original liner notes from McCoy Tyner plays Ellington, AS-79]

Personnel:

McCoy Tyner, piano

Jimmy Garrison, bass
Elvin Jones, drums
Willie Rodríguez, Johnny Pacheco, Latin percussion
(on #1, 2, 4 & 6)

Original sessions produced by Bob Thiele
Reissue produced by Michael Cuscuna
Recording engineer: Rudy Van Gelder
Recorded at the Van Gelder Studio, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey on December 2 (#8 & 9), December 7 (#3, 5, 7, 10), December 8 (#1, 2, 4, 6), 1964.

#1-7 originally issued as AS-79. #8 & 9 originally issued on "The Early Trios" IA-9338-2. #10 originally issued on MCAD-33124 (the first CD issue of this set).

Digitally remastered by Erick Labson at MCA Music Media Studios, using 20-Bit Super Mapping

Photography: Jim Marshall, Jack Bradley
Art Direction & Design: Hollis King

To the Listener:

In our continuing attempt to remain true to the original recordings (in both sound quality and design), we at Impulse! Records have made no changes in content, spelling or grammar to the original text.

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1. Duke's Place 3:15

(Duke Ellington-Ruth Roberts-Bill Katz-Robert Thiele) EMI Robbins Catalog, Inc. (ASCAP)

2. Caravan 3:29

(Duke Ellington) EMI Mills Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

3. Solitude 5:06

(Irving Mills-Duke Ellington-Eddie DeLange) EMI Mills Music, Inc. (ASCAP)/Scansdale Music Corp. (ASCAP) c/o Shapins, Bernstein & Co., Inc.

4. Searchin' 4:30

(Duke Ellington-Steve Allen) Publishing Designee

5. Mr. Gentle and Mr. Cool 6:25

(Duke Ellington-Laura Rembert) Duke Ellington Music (ASCAP) admin. by Famous Music Corporation (ASCAP)/Tempo Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

6. Satin Doll 4:08

(Duke Ellington) Duke Ellington Music (ASCAP) admin. by Famous Music Corporation (ASCAP)

7. Gypsy Without a Song 4:55

(Juan Tizol-Irving Gordon-Louis Singer) EMI Mills Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

8. It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)* 3:59

(Duke Ellington-Irving Mills) EMI Mills Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

9. I Got It Bad (and That Ain't Good)* 5:54

(Paul Francis Webster-Duke Ellington) Webster Music Corp. (ASCAP)/EMI Robbins Catalog, Inc. (ASCAP)

10. Gypsy Without a Song* (alternate take) 6:14

*Bonus tracks



IMP 12162



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