

HARLEM AIR SHAFT • SERIOUS SERENADE
DON'T EVER SAY GOODBYE • BIG DRAG

PART 1
EAP 1-679



ELLINGTON SHOWCASE



ROBERT
LOOMIS



OFFICIAL CATALOGUE 86
DUKE ELLINGTON and his Famous Orchestra

This is one part
of a three-part album

STEREO RECORDS
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ELLINGTON SHOWCASE

The Duke herein combines superb soloists and tunes in shining showcases,
custom-made in the royal Ellington manner.

Duke Ellington has long been a charter-resident in the jazz critics' Hall of Fame. As an arranger and songwriter he is one of jazz's ruling figures. Yet Duke would deserve his acclaim if he had given us no more than the Ellington band. Through this orchestra has run a golden thread of extremely talented soloists, most of whom gained their musical maturity, as well as their fame, playing with Ellington.

One of the reasons that this band has spawned so many name jazzmen is Duke's special knack with that concerto of jazz, the showcase: arrangements custom-made to show a soloist at his best. Usually these Ellington showcases are so form-fitting that they are wedded to a particular soloist for eternity. Witness those created for Bubber Miley, Sam Nanton, and Cootie Williams.

This album contains showcases wrought with the same skill of old, with added touches of modernity. And as before, the showcases exhibit not only superb soloists, but fine songs and the band itself.

4 HARLEM AIR SHAFT

Showcasing trumpeter **CLARK TERRY** (from St. Louis • with All Star Navy Band during the war • four years with Basie • Joined Duke in fall '51). Getting off to a fast start, Ellington chooses one of his classics, and his fiery young band treats it to the best outing yet. The excellent cooperation Terry gets from the rhythm section puts him in delightful humor. His soloing is light-footed and delicate, as if he were dancing on a slack-wire.

5 SERIOUS SERENADE

Showcasing baritone saxophonist **HARRY CARNEY** (Boston born • joined Duke at sixteen in '26). Carney is the senior Ellington

sideman, and jazz's first great baritone sax soloist. Carney's rich, dark tone makes him seem to be fairly dieseling through this excellent vehicle, built especially for him.

6 DON'T EVER SAY GOODBYE

Showcasing **THE ELLINGTON CLASS**. A torchy tune comes through with a smart and pretty mood, thanks mostly to some tumbling, chiming piano from Duke and well-mannered trumpet from Willie Cook (born in East Chicago, Ind. • worked with Jay McShann, Earl Hines, Diz • joined Duke in fall of '51). The sections stay alert and the whole band hits with a clean edge, sounding handsome.

7 BIG DRAG

Showcasing **THE ELLINGTON DRIVE**. As closing time rolls around, the Ellington band riffs brisk and cheery. Highly commendable tenor by Paul Gonsalves (from Boston • worked with Basie, Diz • joined Duke in '50), buoyant clarinet by Hamilton, frisky trumpet from Cook, and hard-hitting brass combine to show what a band this is: dynamic and unified. A crowning touch to a royal concert.

Piano: Duke Ellington, Bass: Jimmy Wood, Drums: Dave Black, Trumpets: Cat Anderson, Willie Cook, Ray Nance, Clark Terry, Trombones: Britt Woodman, Quentin Jackson, John Saunders, Saxophones: Harry Carney, Jimmy Hamilton, Paul Gonsalves, Russell Procope, Rick Henderson.

HARLEM AIR SHAFT: composed by Duke Ellington; recorded in Chicago, May 17, 1955. **SERIOUS SERENADE**: composed by Duke Ellington; recorded in Chicago, May 17-18, 1955.

DON'T EVER SAY GOODBYE: composed by Duke Ellington; recorded in Chicago, December 29, 1953. Billy Strayhorn added as ensemble pianist. Wendell Marshall replaces Wood on bass.

BIG DRAG: composed by Duke Ellington; recorded in Chicago, July 1, 1953. Juan Tizol replaces Saunders on trombone, Marshall replaces Wood on bass, Butch Ballard replaces Black on drums.

