

CLARINET MELODRAMA • FALLING LIKE A RAINDROP
LA VIRGEN DE LA MACARENA

PART 2
EAP 3-978

ELLINGTON SHOWCASE



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ROBERT
LOOMIS

DUKE ELLINGTON and his Famous Orchestra

This is one part
of a three-part album

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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.

CLARINET MELODRAMA

Showcasing clarinetist **JIMMY HAMILTON** (born in Dillon, S.C. • raised in Philly • played with Teddy Wilson and Benny Carter • joined Duke in fall '42). One of the least appreciated of master soloists, Jimmy performs here in his own composition, perfectly suited to display his virtuosity. Opening seriously as any true concerto, the number moves its pretty melody through several changes of pace with quick brush-strokes and cascading group figures, then stops adroitly on a dime.

FALLING LIKE A RAINDROP

Showcasing **THE ELLINGTON SONG**. The drums dance to start this delightful song; virile reeds and sedate brass then combine in a grand reading of a typically substantial Ellington composition. Good raw-hide baritone from Harry Carney stands out, but it's the sweet line of the song itself that's showcased.

LA VIRGEN DE LA MACARENA

Showcasing trumpeter **CAT ANDERSON** (William Alonzo Anderson of Greenville, S.C. • played with Lucky Millinder, Erskine Hawkins, Hamp • first joined Duke in fall '44). Unlike most high-altitude trumpeters, Anderson shouts rather than screams at the top of his range. Trumpet and drums announce the toreador, followed by a humorously vigorous reading of this, the bullfighter's entrance music. Heartily, and with good results, Cat abandons Madrid for Tel-Aviv, and soloing along this line comprises the middle section. A corking high note ends the piece and earns Cat the bull's ears for bravery.

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.

CLARINET MELODRAMA: composed by Jimmy Hamilton; recorded in Chicago, May 17-18, 1955. **LA VIRGEN DE LA MACARENA:** traditional bullfighter's song; recorded in Chicago, May 17, 1955.

FALLING LIKE A RAINDROP: composed by Duke Ellington; recorded in Chicago, January 17, 1954. Billy Strayhorn added as ensemble pianist. George Jean replaces Saunders on trombone. Wendell Marshall replaces Wood on bass.

MADE IN U.S.A.



FACTORIES: SCRANTON, PA. LOS ANGELES, CALIF.