

THEME FOR TRAMBEAN • BLOSSOM
GONNA TAN YOUR HIDE

PART **3**
EAP 3-679



THE ORIGINAL
MONO STEREO
RECORDING

ELLINGTON SHOWCASE



ROBERT
LOOMIS



DUKE ELLINGTON and his Famous Orchestra

This is one part
of a three-part album

STEREO RECORDING
HIGH FIDELITY
RECORDING



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.

BLOSSOM

Showcasing **DUKE ELLINGTON**. When Ellington music is written and dedicated to a flower or other soft and lonely things, his loveliest sound is heard. Beautiful piano by Duke, like soft petals unfolding, is featured here. The sections work muted and restrained against a muffled, Latinesque beat.

THEME FOR TRAMBEAN

Showcasing trombonist **BRITT WOODMAN** (from L.A., where he schooled at Westlake • worked with Boyd Raeburn, Lionel Hampton • joined Duke in spring '51). A bold melody and a draggish interlude toward the last mark this spirited showcase, a *tour de force* for the Britt heart, range, and facility. Woodman carries on the tradition of great Ellington trombonists.

GONNA TAN YOUR HIDE

Showcasing drummer **DAVE BLACK** (Philly born • Mastbaum School of Music • worked with Bird, Buddy DeFranco, George Auld • went with Duke in fall '53). Black is set by Ellington in a spare musical frame, and within it Dave, a two-basser, conjures up a galaxy of strange effects and mood-changing beats. His ability to do many different things at once is impressive, and the band barks rousing cheers at the first and the last.

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.

BLOSSOM: composed by Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn; recorded in Hollywood, April 9, 1953. Juan Tizol replaces Saunders on trombone. Butch Ballard replaces Black on drums. Wendell Marshall replaces Wood on bass.

THEME FOR TRAMBEAN: composed by Jimmy Hamilton; recorded in Chicago, May 17-18, 1955.

GONNA TAN YOUR HIDE: composed by Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn; recorded in New York, June 17, 1954. Marshall replaces Wood on bass.

