



Chelsea Bridge Five O'Clock Drag John Hardy's Wife Bakiff

and his Famous Orchestra





His Master's Voice





EXTENDED PLAN CAMPBELL CONNELLY MADE IN QUESTITAIN (Speed 45 r.p.m.) (F2PH-1760) JOHN HARDY'S WIFE DUKE ELLINGTON & HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA



DUKE ELLINGTON and his Famous Orchestra

SIDE I

SIDE 2

I. Chelsea Bridge (a)

- I. John Hardy's Wife (c)
- 2. Five O'Clock Drag (b)
- 2. Bakiff (d)

PERSONNEL: Barney Bigard (clt and ten); Otto Hardwick, Johnny Hodges (altos); Ben Webster (ten); Harry Carney (bar); Wallace Jones (tpt); Rex Stewart (ct); Ray Nance (tp and violin); Lawrence Brown, Joe Nanton (tbs); Juan Tizol (valve tb); Fred Guy (gtr); Alvin 'Junior' Raglin (bs); Sonny Greer (d), Billy Strayhorn (p), Recorded Hollywood 2/12/41.

(b) Same. Duke Ellington and Jimmy Bryant replace Strayhorn and Raglin. Recorded Hollywood 26/9/41. (c) Same as (b). Jimmy Blanton replaces Bryant. Recorded Hollywood 15/2/41.

These four titles come from a very strong period in Duke Ellington's career. All recorded in 1941, whilst the band were in Hollywood, they portray the diversity of talent that Ellington had at his command at this stage.

Not only musical talent-and it can be argued that this was certainly one of the best bands that the Duke ever hadbut in the arranging and composing capabilities of certain members of the orchestra and others closely connected with it. Chelsea Bridge, a delicate tune, was composed and arranged by the Duke's second planist Billy Strayhorn. Inspired by a Whistler painting, the tune is faintly reminiscent of Ravel, but the mood is typical Ellington throughout. The solo piano is played by the composer. The Duke's own contribution to this set is his very typical five O'Clock Drag. This is freely swinging jazz with good solo passages from Ben Webster, tenor, and the cornet of Rex Stewart.

John Hardy's Wife comes from the pen of Ellington's son Mercer, who, as a composer at least, has followed closely in his father's footsteps. Solos from Harry Carney, Ray Nance (trumpet), Lawrence Brown and the Duke himself.

Lastly Bakiff, a composition by Ellington's Puerto Rican valve-trombonist Juan Tizol. Very Eastern in flavour, the arrangement features the violin of Ray Nance plus a solo passage from the composer himself.

Duke Ellington and his Famous Orchestra

can also be heard playing

Morning Glory; Dusk; Moon Mist;

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