



A BALL WITH THE DUKE

Laugh, clown, laugh (Lowiz/Young/Fiorito)
The peanut vendor (Gilbert/Sunshine/Simon)

DUKE ELLINGTON

A BALL WITH THE DUKE Lady in red (Dixon/Wrubel) Alice blue gown (McCarthy/Tierney)

DUKE ELLINGTON and his Orchestra

(stereo 760 311 BV)



A BALL WITH THE DUKE



DUKE ELLINGTON

and his Orchestra

Side 1:

Laugh, clown, laugh The peanut vendor

Side 2:

Lady in red Alice blue gown

So far as his music is concerned, Duke Ellington is a man whose personality is split several stimulating ways. He gives concerts that show him to be among the most imaginative innovators and composers in jazz. He has tried his hand at writing a film sound track, the results of his efforts being excitingly audible in "Anatomy of a Murder." And sometimes, if the mood strikes him, he likes to play for dancers in the best dance-band tradition, introducing new arrangements featuring himself at the piano, playing, of all things, other people's music.

Just how inspiringly he handles other people's music can be discovered by listening to this record. The harmonies are as hypnotic as ever, the contrasts are exquisite, and the rhythms are irresistible enough to make your heart and your feet - fall into step with them. Although the

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JAZZ GALLERY Incl.: Jones - Perdido -Avalon - Spacemen

record is called "A Ball with the Duke," one might add that this is a costume ball, for these four danceable tunes have never before been dressed up quite so

First there is a swinging interpretation of "Lough, clown, lough," with Harry Carney "playing" the clown and some superb piano interludes from Duke. Then comes the gay and familiar "Peanut vendor," played in real sunshine style with Ray Nance on trumpet and a wild Latin rhythm.

"Lady in red" contains solos by Jimmy Hamilton on clarinet and Clark Terry on ilugelharn. Finally, to provide a touch of nostalgia at the end of the dance, there is that old favourite, "Alice blue gown," This has Duke's pigno in the foreground and a satin sax chorus by Johnny

Here, then, is Duke in a dancing mood, underlining each tune with a really swinging beat, dreaming up his customary wild and wonderful flights of musical fancy. His piano spices the music with the right chords in exactly the right places and he proves once again that, no matter whether he is playing his own music or somebody else's, he remains among the most talented and daring innovators on the jazz scene.

"Laugh, clown, laugh" was recorded on March 20, 1958, "The peanut vendor" on March 24, 1958, and "Lady in red" and "Alice blue gown" on March 31, 1958.



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