

ELLINGTONIA

the
thirties

duke

ellington



2



It don't mean a thing
Solitude
Caravan
I let a song go out
of my heart

Duke Ellington
and his Orchestra



100 621

PHILIPS



Ellingtonia - vol. 2

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

the thirties

429 808 BE



Side 1: *It don't mean a thing*
Solitude

Side 2: *Caravan*
I let a song go out of my heart

Duke Ellington and his men moved into the big time when they were hired by the management of the Cotton Club in New York. They stayed there from December 4, 1927, until 1932. Recording sessions took place regularly under Ellington's own name and the band became widely known outside the U.S.A.

"Mood indigo," originally recorded in 1930 as "Dream blues," proved the first big hit recorded by Duke. The "tonal" arrangements, the unique voicing of the orchestra, and the individuality of each of the band's members, those were (and still are) the factors that explained most of the success.

"It don't mean a thing, if it ain't got that swing," Ellington once told somebody. The maxim has been lived up to ever since by every Ellington line-up - as is proved by this and every other record that Ellington has made. His European tours during the 'thirties brought him and his band fame and publicity. The first tour was in 1933, the second in 1939.

Until 1939, constancy of personnel enabled Ellington to build up an ensemble of tremendous precision, and this in itself ensured great listening pleasure. Then, in 1939, came three major changes: Billy Strayhorn was added as assistant arranger, Jimmy Blanton started to play bass, and Ben Webster occupied the tenor seat.

Personnel and dates:

1. **It don't mean a thing:** recorded on February 2, 1932
Arthur Whetsel, Freddy Jenkins, Cootie Williams (trp.) - Joe "Tricky Sam" Nanton, Lawrence Brown (trb.) - Johnny Hodges (alt.sopr.sax) - Harry Carney (cl. alt. and bar.sax) - Barney Bigard (cl. and ten.sax) - Duke Ellington (pno.) - Fred Guy (gtr.) - Wellman Braud (bss.) - Sonny Greer (drs.) - Ivie Anderson (voc.)
2. **Solitude:** recorded on September 12, 1934
Personnel same as on no. 1
Added: Juan Tizol (trb.) - Otto Hardwick (alt.sopr. and bass sax)
3. **Caravan:** recorded on May 14, 1937
Wallace Jones, Cootie Williams, Rex Stewart (trp.) - Lawrence Brown, Joe Nanton, Juan Tizol (trb.) - Otto Hardwick, Johnny Hodges, Harry Carney, Barney Bigard (sax.) - Duke Ellington (pno.) - Fred Guy (gtr.) - Hayer Alvis, Billy Taylor (bss.) - Sonny Greer (drs.)
4. **I let a song go out of my heart:** recorded on March 3, 1938
Personnel same as on no. 3
Added: Harold Baker (trp.)

Great Ellington recordings on Philips 45:

- ELLINGTONIA - vol. 1 429 807 BE
Incl.: East St. Louis toodle-o - Saturday night function
- ELLINGTONIA - vol. 3 429 809 BE
Incl.: Mood indigo - Lady of the lavender mist
- ELLINGTONIA - vol. 4 429 810 BE
Incl.: Things ain't what they used to be - All of me
- ELLINGTONIA - vol. 5 429 811 BE
Incl.: Take the "A" train - Mood indigo - The mooche

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