

RCA VICTOR *"45" Extended Play*

A TREASURY OF
**IMMORTAL
PERFORMANCES**

"Duke Ellington's Greatest"

It Don't Mean a Thing

Prelude to a Kiss

**I Let a Song Go Out of
My Heart**

Sophisticated Lady

Caravan

Solitude

Black and Tan Fantasy

In a Sentimental Mood

Popular Collector's Issue Series

EPBT 1004

Form 759321 Rev.



Printed in U.S.A.

From the Treasury of IMMORTAL PERFORMANCES

DUKE ELLINGTON'S GREATEST

Notes by LEONARD FEATHER

IN the twenty-five years since he first established a national reputation with his debut at the old Cotton Club, Duke Ellington has enjoyed a dual career. Few of his more casual admirers realize the necessity to differentiate between Ellington the orchestrator and Ellington the songwriter, yet these two channels along which the stream of his success has flowed are generally quite distinct, overlapping only in occasional instances.

Ellington the orchestrator builds works that are designed strictly for his own band, in which counterpoint, the voicing, the interpretation, are as much an integral part of the work as the main melodic line. Ellington the songwriter designs hits with simple single-line melodies, to be played and popularized just as much by other artists as by his own unit.

In this collection, the two Ellingtonian facets are happily combined. Eight of the tunes that helped to establish Ellington among the Berlins and Kerns as a popular songwriter are given up-to-date treatment in the hands of their creator and his perennial collaborator Billy Strayhorn. Some of the tunes here started out as simple instrumental numbers and were later developed into popular songs (*Caravan*, *Sophisticated Lady*); others were conceived specifically with the popular song market in mind (*I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart*); and one number has remained a strictly instrumental Ellington specialty to this day

(*Black and Tan Fantasy*). All eight are, in their present form, a synthesis of everything that characterizes the Ellington of the 1950's—a figure as unique in modern American music as he was in the 1920's.

If Don't Mean a Thing—The three girl singers who were with Duke in 1945 enter one at a time—in order, Marie Ellington (no relation), Joya Sherrill and Kay Davis. Marie sings the middle eight bars. Taft Jordan takes a trumpet break and Al Sears is heard in a solo, typical of his clipped, rhythmic style. Tune dates from 1931; new Ellington-Strayhorn arrangement from 1945.

Caravan—This 1937 tune was created by Juan Tizol, Puerto Rican valve trombonist who rejoined Ellington in 1951 after several years with Harry James. It gets a rumba treatment in this later version arranged by Duke; Lawrence Brown, trombone, Jimmy Hamilton, clarinet, and Ray Nance, violin, are spotlighted.

Sophisticated Lady—Long associated with Toby Hardwick, former lead alto sax in the band, who first recorded it with Duke in 1933, this makes a vehicle for Duke's piano, Hamilton's clarinet and the trumpet of William "Cat" Anderson, who rejoined Duke in 1950 after a short fling with his own band.

Strayhorn made the latter part of the arrangement, Duke the first part.

Solitude—The most famous of all Duke's popular song hits, first recorded by Victor in 1934 as an instrumental and now presented as a vocal specialty featuring all four of the Ellington 1945 singers: (in order of their appearance) Kay Davis, Joya Sherrill, Marie Ellington and Albert Hibbler. Strayhorn's arrangement.

In a Sentimental Mood—Otto "Toby" Hardwick displays his pretty and unusual alto sax tone; Carney's baritone sax lends its full-bodied, tone-color; and other contributions are made by Lawrence Brown, trumpeter Rex Stewart, and the Duke himself, who ends the side on an unexpected sixth. The old arrangement was first recorded in 1935; the later one, by Duke and Strayhorn, a decade later.

I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart—Harry Carney's bass clarinet and Duke's piano, the latter playing a countermelody reminiscent of *My Blue Heaven*, team to start this side in a charmingly different mood. After eight bars Joya's excellent vocal, brass in hats,

and Brown's trombone, maintain the mood. This delightful Ellington-Strayhorn treatment of the 1938 Cotton Club show tune will probably be hailed as the most successful of this whole series.

Prelude to a Kiss—An Ellington piano introduction leads into one of the loveliest and most colorfully supported Carney baritone solos on record. Nance's sensitive violin and some more Ellington piano contribute before Carney returns to close the performance. Ellington-Strayhorn arrangement; 1938 tune.

Black and Tan Fantasy—One of the first notable Ellington instrumentals, co-authored in 1927 by the late Bubber Miley, Duke's first "growl" trumpet specialist, and featuring, in this 1945 treatment, Carney's baritone and the plunger-muted trombone of the late Joseph "Tricky Sam" Nanton. Complete with the funeral-march ending, this is a fine three-minute dose of nostalgia for the older Ellington students. While retaining the original flavor and minor mood of the tune, it draws on the band's greatly advanced tonal resources.



The Collector's Issue Label designates a recording of great historical and musical interest which, although technically not representative of RCA Victor's present day high quality standards, has been reissued in response to widespread public demand.

RCA VICTOR—RCA MONOGRAM—DOG AND PHONOGRAPH—THIS MASTER'S VOICE—“RED SEAL”—REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.—MARCUS REGISTARDS

RCA VICTOR

45 EXTENDED PLAY

EPBT 1004
947-0078
(E2PW-0763)



Recorded
May 14, 1945 &
May 11, 1945

- 1—IT DON'T MEAN A THING
(If It Ain't Got That Swing)
(Irving Mills—Duke Ellington)
- 2—CARAVAN (Mills—Ellington—Tizol)
Duke Ellington and his
Famous Orchestra

RCA VICTOR—RCA MONOGRAM—DOG AND PHONOGRAPH—THIS MASTER'S VOICE—“RED SEAL”—REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.—MARCUS REGISTARDS

RCA VICTOR

45 EXTENDED PLAY

EPBT 1004
947-0078
(E2PW-0764)



Recorded
May 15, 1945 &
May 11, 1945

- 1—I LET A SONG GO OUT OF MY HEART
(Mills—Nemo—Ellington)
- 2—BLACK AND TAN FANTASY
(Bud Miley—Duke Ellington)
Duke Ellington and his
Famous Orchestra

RCA VICTOR DIVISION, RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA, CAMDEN, N. J. MADE IN U. S. A.

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RCA VICTOR—RCA MONOGRAM—DOG AND PHONOGRAPH—THIS MASTER'S VOICE—"RED SEAL"—REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.—MARCAS REGISTRADAS

RCA VICTOR

45 EXTENDED PLAY

EPBT 1004
947-0079
(E2PW-0765)



Recorded
May 14, 1945

- 1—IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD
(Kurtz-Mills-Ellington)
- 2—SOPHISTICATED LADY
(Mills-Parish-Ellington)
Duke Ellington and his
Famous Orchestra

RCA VICTOR DIVISION, RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA, CAMDEN, N. J. MADE IN U. S. A.

RCA VICTOR—RCA MONOGRAM—DOG AND PHONOGRAPH—THIS MASTER'S VOICE—"RED SEAL"—REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.—MARCAS REGISTRADAS

RCA VICTOR

45 EXTENDED PLAY

EPBT 1004
947-0079
(E2PW-0766)



Recorded
May 15, 1945 &
May 10, 1945

- 1—SOLITUDE
(DeLange-Mills-Ellington)
- 2—PRELUDE TO A KISS
(Gordon-Mills-Ellington)
Duke Ellington and his
Famous Orchestra

RCA VICTOR DIVISION, RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA, CAMDEN, N. J. MADE IN U. S. A.

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in **RCA VICTOR**
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Four Selections
on Every Record

Two-Record Albums

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Bunny Berigan Plays Again <i>Bunny Berigan and his Orchestra</i>	EPBT-1003
Country Classics <i>Pee Wee King and his Band Featuring Redd Stewart</i>	EPB-3028
Eddie Fisher Sings <i>Eddie Fisher with Orch. and Cho.</i>	EPB-3025
"Fats" Waller Favorites <i>"Fats" Waller and his Rhythm</i>	EPBT-3024
Glenn Miller Concert (Vol. 1) <i>Glenn Miller and his Orchestra</i>	EPBT-3025
Glenn Miller Concert (Vol. 2) <i>Glenn Miller and his Orchestra</i>	EPBT-3026
Just a Song at Twilight <i>Cities Service Green and White Quartet</i>	EPB-3020
On the Moonbeam <i>Vaughn Monroe and his Orchestra</i>	EPB-3033
The Student Prince (Romberg) <i>Al Goodman and his Orchestra with Famous Vocalists and Cho.</i>	EKB-1014
Sousa Marches <i>Cities Service Band of America Paul Lavalle, Conductor</i>	EPB-3014
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Tangos <i>Emil Coleman and his Orchestra</i>	EPB-3003

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Artie Shaw Album <i>Artie Shaw and his Orchestra</i>	EPA-85
Cocktail Time with Frankie Carle <i>Frankie Carle at the Piano, with Rhythm</i>	EPA-305
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Glenn Miller Album <i>Glenn Miller and his Orchestra</i>	EPA-148
Hank Snow Favorites <i>Hank Snow (The Singing Ranger) and his Rainbow Ranch Boys</i>	EPA-295
"An Invitation to Dance" <i>Claude Thornhill and his Orchestra</i>	EPA-243
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Waltzes You Saved for Me <i>Wayne King and his Orchestra</i>	EPA-70



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