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Featuring: Three Little Words—Stardust—Stormy Weather—Cocktails for Two Flamingo—Liza—My Old Flame—I Can't Give You Anything But Love



MY OLD FLAME
THREE LITTLE WORDS
I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING BUT LOVE
LIZA
FLAMINGO
STARDUST
STORMY WEATHER
COCKTAILS FOR TWO

The familiar songs in this Album were all introduced to the public by Duke Ellington—a surprising fact till you remember that the Duke and his Orchestra have been playing great popular music in the world's biggest entertainment palaces for more than Twenty-five years. His rich, distinctive style—one of the finest creative products of American Jazz—has been heard not only in his own compositions, but also in the inimitable touch he has lent to the birth of many songs that others have written—songs that have gone on to become classics in their field. Now he performs them again, newly arranged, in this Album—the first of its kind he has ever made.

Quite a few of these introductions date back to the time when the Ellington name first gained fame—when the Duke and his Band played the big, highly publicated Cotton Club revues, from 1927 on. Up-and-coming songwriters were anxious to have him play their tunes—like a young fellow named Hoagy Carmichael, with a melody he called STARDUST. That was even before the song got its present lyrics and the Duke made a dance arrangement to which Cotton Club patrons elided dreamly.

Jimmy McHugh, a very early Ellington fan, was another composer with great songs in his Portfolio. One of them, soon to be heard in the Broadway revue, "Blackbirds of 1928," was "I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING BUT LOVE"—first played by the Ellington band from

a simple "Lead sheet" (just the melody line and a few chord notations). The dancing crowd loved the tune then, and they always have.

Just to keep the evenings busy, Duke Ellington and his Orchestra appeared in a Ziegfield production during 1929, concurrently with their Cotton Club engagement. It was the Gershwin Musical Play, "Show Girl," starring Jimmy Durante, Ruby Keeler, and Eddie Poy, Jr. A big second-act ministrel scene introduced LIZA, with the Duke playing. Al Johon created a sensation on opening night by singing the song from the audience to Ruby, his bride.

In 1930, the Ellington band trok a jaunt to Hollywood, where, in annos 'n' Andy film called "Chr k and Double Check," they played the new Bert Kalmar-Harry Rub; tune, THREE LUTTLE WORDS. On the picture's sound track the vood chorus was sung by the "Rhythm Boys," because the producer didn't like a previous solo version by one member of the trio. a fellow named Bing Crosby.

Ellington returned to Broadway in 1933 to star in another big Cotton Club show, with Ethel Waters. One of the new songs Harold Arlen wrote for that show was STORMY WEATHER, and the Duke's beautiful premiere arrangement was unforgettable.

Back in Hollywood the next year, the Ellington Orchestra appeared in two films that introduced his songs by the beat-selling team of Arthur Johnston and Sam Coslow. COCKTAILS FOR TWO was performed by the Band in a production scene of a picture titled "Murder at the Vanities," and in the Mae West epic, "Belle of the Nineties," the Duke, in period costume, played My OLD FLAME.

Most recent of this Album's Ellington Premieres is FLAMINGO, a remarkable song of 1941. The Duke gave an exotic treatment to this tune by a French composer, Ted Grouya, and lyricist Ed Anderson, and it soon became a national favourite.

All these songs, of course, are "Standard" now—songs that everybody loves. But the Duke has a special sort of affection for them, because he was there at their debuts—and you can hear his enthusiam in these wonderful new performances of songs PREMIERED BY ELLINGTON.

Plays at 334 revolutions per minute



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