



DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1924 - 1927

1	CHOO CHOO (GOTTA HURRY HOME) (Ellington-Ringle-Schafer) (T-2005-2)	11-7-24	3:13
2	RAINY NIGHTS (Ellington-Trent-Lopez) (T-2006-2)	11-7-24	3:23
3	I'M GONNA HANG AROUND MY SUGAR (Palmer-Williams) (106250)	09-7-25	3:00
4	TROMBONE BLUES (Nixon-Williams) (106251)	09-7-25	2:57
5	GEORGIA GRIND (Williams) (106729)	03-7-26	2:41
6	PARLOR SOCIAL STOMP (Ellington) (106730)	03-7-26	3:07
7	(YOU'VE GOT THOSE) WANNA-GO-BACK-AGAIN BLUES (X-57-A) (Turk-Handman)	03-30-26	3:17
8	IF YOU CAN'T HOLD THE MAN YOU LOVE (Fain-Kahal) (X-58-A)	03-30-26	3:19
9	ANIMAL CRACKERS (Coslow-Rich-Link) (X-190-A)	06-21-26	3:06
10	LI'L FARINA (Smith-Mier) (X-191-A)	06-21-26	3:00
11	EAST ST. LOUIS TOODLE-O (Ellington) (E-4110)	11-29-26	2:50
12	BIRMINGHAM BREAKDOWN (Ellington) (E-4114)	11-29-26	2:43
13	IMMIGRATION BLUES (Ellington) (E-4321)	12-29-26	2:56

14	THE CREEPER (Ellington) (E-4323)	12-29-26	2:47
15	NEW ORLEANS LOW-DOWN (Ellington) (E-4510)	02-03-27	2:59
16	SONG OF THE COTTON FIELD (Grainger) (E-4511)	02-03-27	2:59
17	BIRMINGHAM BREAKDOWN (Ellington) (E-21641)	02-28-27	2:38
18	EAST ST. LOUIS TOODLE-OO (Ellington) (E-21872)	03-14-27	2:58
19	EAST ST. LOUIS TOODLE-OO (Ellington) (143705-3)	03-22-27	3:04
20	HOP HEAD (Ellington-Hardwick) (143706-2)	03-22-27	2:56
21	DOWN IN OUR ALLEY BLUES (Ellington-Hardwick) (143707-2)	03-22-27	3:00
22	BLACK AND TAN FANTASY (Ellington-Miley) (E-4874)	04-07-27	3:16
23	SOLILOQUY (Ellington-Bloom) (E-4965)	04-30-27	3:04

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CLASSICS 538: EARL HINES 1937-1939
CLASSICS 539: DUKE ELLINGTON 1924-1927
CLASSICS 540: HENRY "RED" ALLEN 1929-1933
CLASSICS 541: BENNY CARTER 1936
CLASSICS 542: DUKE ELLINGTON 1927- 1928
CLASSICS 543: DON REDMAN 1931-1933
CLASSICS 544: CAB CALLOWAY 1932-1934...

CLASSICS 539

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1924 - 1927

Not much can be said about Duke Ellington that has not yet been stated many times before: Indeed, he was by far the most productive - and inventive - jazz musician ever; he has been leading the world's most popular big band for almost half a century; and he is irrefutably among the two or three real geniuses in jazz! But words will never suffice to express what his music did for generations of jazz lovers and it will continue to do so as long as jazz is appreciated...

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was born in Washington, D.C., on April 29, 1899. While still at high school, he began playing in his native city. Soon after he organized his first little group, "The Duke's Serenaders", including Otto Hardwike and Arthur Whetsol that were both to remain with him for many years. Duke Ellington first came to New York in 1923 where he played with "The Washingtonians", then still led by Elmer Snowden. One year later the aspiring Duke Ellington took over the group and worked with it successfully at the "Kentucky Club" until 1927. The growing band's most successful at the "Cotton Club" lasted until 1931, when the fledgling orchestra of Cab Calloway took over their job. Duke Ellington's first tour to England, Scotland and France in 1933 proved an immense personnel and musical triumph. During the thirties the Duke and his Orchestra travelled extensively in the United States and their second visit to Europe half a year before the outbreak of the war enabled many of their admirers to hear the band in person. Many agree that by 1940 the orchestra had reached its artistic peak. Their first concert at Carnegie Hall in January 1943 was followed by innumerable appearances at the world's most famous theatres. Duke Ellington was fortunately able to continue his regular tours around the globe until a short time before his death on May 24, 1974 - one month after his celebrated 75th birthday.

This initial CD of Duke Ellington's recorded works in chronological order includes all tracks that were cut from the very beginning of his recording-career in 1924 to April 1927. The rather humble efforts by "The Washingtonians" are followed by some of the earliest well-known sides that Ellington made with his "Kentucky Club Orchestra". Most of these tracks include solos by Bubber Miley, who was the first major star of Duke's band. "If You Can't Hold" features the great Jimmy Harrison, who worked with Ellington for a very short time only and died in 1931. "East St. Louis Toodle-OO", the band's first official theme song, is presented in no less than three versions, all made for different record-companies of which the second is slightly better than the other two. One of the orchestra's biggest hits - it remained in the band-book until Ellington's death - "Black And Tan Fantasy" just about closes the present CD that documents the birth of a band. Don't miss our second volume including recordings by the one and only Duke Ellington from 1927 and 1928!

Anatol Schenker, June 1990.

CLASSICS 539

DISCOGRAPHY DUKE ELLINGTON 1924-1927

THE WASHINGTONIANS: Duke Ellington-p-a dir. Bubber Miley-c/Charlie Ivis-tb/Otto Hardwick-cl-as/Fred Guy-bj/Sonny Greer-d.

T-2005-2 Choo Choo (Gotta Hurry Home) New York, November, 1924.
T-2006-2 Rainy Nights Blu-Disc T-1002
Blu-Disc T-1002

THE WASHINGTONIANS: Pike Davis-t replaces Miley; Prince Robinson-cl-ts/Henry Edwards-bb added; Greer omitted.

106250 CBS I'm Gonna Hang Around My Sugar New York, September, 1925.
106251 Trombone Blues Pathe Actuelle 36333
Pathe Actuelle 36333

DUKE ELLINGTON'S WASHINGTONIANS: Duke Ellington-p-a dir. Harry Cooper-Leroy Rutledge-t/Charlie Ivis-tb/Otto Hardwick-as-bar/Don Redman-cl-as/Fred Guy-bj/Henry Edwards-bb/Sonny Greer-d.

106729 CBS Georgia Grind New York, March, 1926.
106730 Parlor Social Stomp Pathe Actuelle 7504
Pathe Actuelle 7504

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA: As last above, plus Jimmy Harrison-tb-v/Prince Robinson-George Thomas-cl-ts.

X-57-A (You've Got Those) Wanna-Go-Back-Again Blues-vjH New York, March 30, 1926.
X-58-A If You Can't Hold The Man You Love - vjH Gennett 3291
Gennett 3291

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS WASHINGTONIANS: Duke Ellington-p-a dir. Bubber Miley-Charlie Johnson-t/Jo "Tricky Sam" Nanton or Charlie Ivis-tb/Otto Hardwick-as-bar/Prince Robinson-cl-ts/Fred Guy-bj/Henry Edwards-bb/Sonny Greer-d.

X-190-A Animal Crackers New York, June 21, 1926.
X-191-A LIT Farina Gennett 3342
Gennett 3342

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS KENTUCKY CLUB ORCHESTRA: Duke Ellington-p-a dir. Bubber Miley-Louis Metcalf-t/Jo "Tricky Sam" Nanton-tb/Otto Hardwick-sa-as-bar/?Prince Robinson (and another?) -cl-ts/Fred Guy-bj/Henry Edwards-bb/Sonny Greer-d.

New York, November 29, 1926.

E-4110 East St. Louis Toodle-O Vocalion 1064
E-4114 Birmingham Breakdown Vocalion 1064

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS KENTUCKY CLUB ORCHESTRA: same. New York, November 29, 1926.

E-4321 Immigration Blues Vocalion 1077
E-4323 The Creeper Vocalion 1077

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS KENTUCKY CLUB ORCHESTRA: same. New York, February 3, 1927.

E-4510 New Orleans Low-Down Vocalion 1086
E-4511 Song Of The Cotton Field Vocalion 1086

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS KENTUCKY CLUB ORCHESTRA: same. New York, February 28, 1927.

E-21641 Birmingham Breakdown Brunswick 3840

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS KENTUCKY CLUB ORCHESTRA: same. New York, March 14, 1927.

E-21872 East St. Louis Toodle-oo Brunswick 3840

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS WASHINGTONIANS: same. New York, March 22, 1927.

143705-3 CBS East St. Louis Toodle-oo Columbia 953-D
143706-2 Hop Head Columbia 953-D
143707-2 Down In Our Alley Blues Columbia 1076-D

THE WASHINGTONIANS: same. New York, April 7, 1927.

E-4874 Black And Tan Fantasy Brunswick 3526

THE WASHINGTONIANS: June Clark-t replaces Miley; Rube Bloom-a. New York, April 30 1927.

E-4965; A-22809 Soliloquy - aRB Brunswick 3526



From left to right : Duke, Joe Nanton, Sonny Greer, Bubber Miley, Harry Carney, Wellman Braud, Rudy Jackson, Freddie Guy, Nelson Kincaid, Ellsworth Reynolds (CIRCA 1926).

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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1924 - 1927

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1924-1927

DUKE ELLINGTON

CLASSICS 539

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CLASSICS

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1, 2, 3, 4, 22, 23 THE WASHINGTONIANS. 5, 6 DUKE ELLINGTON'S WASHINGTONIANS.
9, 10, 19, 20, 21 DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS WASHINGTONIANS.
11 TO 18 DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS KENTUCKY CLUB ORCHESTRA.

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DUKE ELLINGTON

1924-1927

CLASSICS 539