



DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1938-1939

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|-----------|--|----------|------|----------|------|
| 1 | DELTA MOOD (Ellington)
<i>(M-954-1)</i> | 12-21-38 | 2:44 | | |
| 2 | THE BOYS FROM HARLEM (Ellington)
<i>(M-955-1)</i> | 12-21-38 | 2:16 | | |
| 3 | MOBILE BLUES (Ellington-Williams)
<i>(M-956-2)</i> | 12-21-38 | 2:30 | | |
| 4 | GAL-AVANTIN' (Ellington-Williams)
<i>(M-957-1)</i> | 12-21-38 | 2:20 | | |
| 5 | BLUE LIGHT (TRANSLUCENCY) (Ellington)
<i>(M-958-2)</i> | 12-22-38 | 2:42 | | |
| 6 | OLD KING DOOJI (Ellington)
<i>(M-959-1)</i> | 12-22-38 | 2:30 | | |
| 7 | BOY MEETS HORN (Ellington-Stewart)
<i>(M-960-1)</i> | 12-22-38 | 3:02 | | |
| 8 | SLAP HAPPY (Ellington)
<i>(M-961-1)</i> | 12-22-38 | 2:45 | | |
| 9 | LIKE A SHIP IN THE NIGHT (Cooper-Hudson)
<i>(M-974-1)</i> | 02-27-39 | 2:41 | | |
| 10 | MISSISSIPPI DREAM BOAT (Redmond-Ford)
<i>(M-975-1)</i> | 02-27-39 | 2:37 | | |
| 11 | SWINGIN' ON THE CAMPUS (Ellington-Hodges)
<i>(M-976-1)</i> | 02-27-39 | 2:40 | | |
| 12 | DOOJI WOJOJI (Ellington)
<i>(M-977-1)</i> | 02-27-39 | 2:56 | | |
| 13 | BEAUTIFUL ROMANCE (Ellington-Williams)
<i>(M-982-1)</i> | 02-28-39 | 2:42 | | |
| 14 | BOUDOIR BENNY (Ellington-Williams)
<i>(M-983-1)</i> | | | 02-28-39 | 2:48 |
| 15 | AIN'T THE GRAVY GOOD (Heywood)
<i>(M-984-1)</i> | | | 02-28-39 | 3:05 |
| 16 | SHE'S GONE (Williams-Ellington)
<i>(M-985-1)</i> | | | 02-28-39 | 2:59 |
| 17 | JUST GOOD FUN (Ellington)
<i>(M-990-1)</i> | | | 03-08-39 | 2:29 |
| 18 | INFORMAL BLUES (Ellington)
<i>(M-991-1)</i> | | | 03-08-39 | 2:43 |
| 19 | SAN JUAN HILL (Ellington-Stewart-Fleagle)
<i>(M-994-1)</i> | | | 03-20-39 | 2:40 |
| 20 | I'LL COME BACK FOR MORE (Ellington-Stewart-Fleagle)
<i>(M-995-1)</i> | | | 03-20-39 | 2:52 |
| 21 | "FAT STUFF" SERENADE (Ellington-Stewart)
<i>(M-996-1)</i> | | | 03-20-39 | 2:39 |
| 22 | PUSSY WILLOW (Ellington)
<i>(M-997-1)</i> | | | 03-20-39 | 2:39 |
| 23 | SUBTLE LAMENT (Ellington)
<i>(M-998-1)</i> | | | 03-20-39 | 3:03 |

Photo courtesy of Le Hot Club De France / Duncan Schiedt.

THE CLASSICS CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES

- 653 : ERSKINE HAWKINS 1936-39
 654 : JELLY-ROLL MORTON 1930-39
 655 : ANDY KIRK 1929-31
 656 : PETE JOHNSON 1938-39
 657 : FLETCHER HENDERSON 1924 (VOLUME II)
 658 : JAMES P. JOHNSON 1921-28
 659 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1935-36
 660 : MILLS BLUE RHYTHM BAND 1931
 661 : TINY PARHAM 1926-29
 662 : WILLIE "THE LION" SMITH 1925-37
 663 : LOUIS JORDAN 1940-41
 664 : FATS WALLER 1922-26
 665 : PETE JOHNSON 1939-41
 666 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1936-37
 667 : ERSKINE HAWKINS 1938-39
 668 : JELLY-ROLL MORTON 1939-40
 669 : JABBO SMITH 1929-38
 670 : HARLAN LEONARD 1940
 671 : JAMES P. JOHNSON 1928-38
 672 : ETHEL WATERS 1925-26
 673 : FLETCHER HENDERSON 1924
 674 : FATS WALLER 1926-27
 675 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1937
 676 : MILLS BLUE RHYTHM BAND 1931-32
 677 : WILLIE "THE LION" SMITH 1937-38
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 679 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1921-24
 680 : BILLIE HOLIDAY 1940-42
 681 : ANDY KIRK 1940-42
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 684 : COUNT BASIE 1942
 685 : LOUIS ARMSTRONG 1940-42
 686 : MILLS BLUE RHYTHM BAND 1933-34
 687 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1937 (VOLUME II)
 688 : ETHEL WATERS 1926-29
 689 : FATS WALLER 1927-29
 690 : HERMAN CHITTISON 1933-41
 691 : TINY PARHAM 1929-40
 692 : WILLIE "THE LION" SMITH 1938-40
 693 : BENNY GOODMAN 1928-31
 694 : MEZZ MEZZROW 1936-39
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 696 : SAMMY PRICE 1929-41
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 700 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1938
 701 : ERSKINE HAWKINS 1940-41
 702 : FATS WALLER 1929
 703 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1934-35
 704 : BLUE LU BARKER 1938-39
 705 : SLIM GAILLARD 1937-38
 706 : STUFF SMITH 1936-39
 707 : EDDIE SOUTH 1923-37
 708 : STEPHANE GRAPPELLO 1935-40
 709 : MUGGSY SPANIER 1939-42
 710 : MILLS BLUE RHYTHM BAND 1934-36
 711 : JAMES P. JOHNSON 1938-42
 712 : LUCKY MILLINDER 1941-42
 713 : MEZZ MEZZROW 1928-36
 714 : ALIX COMBELLE 1935-40
 715 : ALBERT AMMONS 1936-39
 716 : CLAUDE HOPKINS 1934-35
 717 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1938 (VOLUME II)
 718 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1926-27
 719 : BENNY GOODMAN 1931-33
 720 : FATS WALLER 1929-34
 721 : ETHEL WATERS 1929-31
 722 : MEADE LUX LEWIS 1927-39
 723 : BOOTS AND HIS BUDDIES 1935-37
 724 : SLIM GAILLARD 1939-40
 725 : ROY ELDRIDGE 1935-40
 726 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1938 (VOLUME III)
 727 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1935
 728 : AL COOPER 1938-41
 729 : JACK TEAGARDEN 1934-39
 730 : EDGAR HAYES 1937-38
 731 : MILLS BLUE RHYTHM BAND 1936-37
 732 : FATS WALLER 1934-35
 733 : CLAUDE HOPKINS 1937-40
 734 : BUNNY BERIGAN 1935-36
 735 : ETHEL WATERS 1931-34
 736 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1927
 737 : EDDIE SOUTH 1937-41
 738 : BOOTS AND HIS BUDDIES 1937-38
 739 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1935-36
 740 : JAY McSHANN 1941-43
 741 : LOUIS JORDAN 1941-43
 742 : EDDIE CONDON 1927-38
 743 : MEADE LUX LEWIS 1939-41
 744 : BENNY GOODMAN 1934-35
 745 : MIDGE WILLIAMS 1937-38
 746 : FATS WALLER 1935
 747 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1938-39
 748 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1937
 749 : BUNNY BERIGAN 1936-37
 750 : JOHN KIRBY 1938-39
 751 : ALIX COMBELLE 1940-42
 752 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1927-28
 753 : SLIM GAILLARD/R.R. BOYS 1939-42
 754 : GENE KRUPA 1935-38...

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1938-1939

"E llington plays the piano, but his real instrument is his band. Each member of his band is to him a distinctive tone colour and set of emotion, which he mixes with others equally distinctive to produce a third thing, which I like to call the Ellington effect." (Billy Strayhorn)

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. He soon organized his first little group, "The Duke's Serenaders", including Otto Hardwick and Arthur Whetsol, both of whom were to remain with him for many years. Duke Ellington first came to New-York in 1923 with "The Washingtonians", then still led by Elmer Snowden. A year later, the highly ambitious Duke Ellington took over the group and worked with it successfully at the "Kentucky Club" until 1927. The developing band's most successful engagement, at the "Cotton Club", lasted until 1931, when the fledgling Cab Calloway Orchestra took over their spot. Duke Ellington's first tour to England, Scotland and France in 1933 proved an immense personal and musical triumph. During the thirties, the Duke and his Orchestra travelled extensively in the United States, and their second visit to Europe six months before the outbreak of war enabled many of their admirers to hear the band in the flesh. Many agree that by 1940 the orchestra had reached its artistic peak. The band's first Carnegie Hall concert 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 celebrating his 75th birthday.

This volume of the recordings of Duke Ellington presented in chronological order well illustrates the aforementioned statement by Billy Strayhorn. It includes both piano solos by the leader and several features for the orchestra's individual stars, as well as a number of small-group sessions. Just prior to Christmas, Rex Stewart re-recorded his "Boy Meets Horn", which had already been cut in September but was not issued at the time. This second, more refined version makes an interesting comparison with the one included on Classics 726. Although not a particularly ingenious composition, its strange sound effects became immensely popular with audiences. "Slap Happy", from the same session, is a great showcase for Harry Camey's robust, yet incredibly elegant baritone-sax. Moreover, this item also includes a fine trombone contribution from Tricky Sam Nanton, who was rarely featured on records during this period. Johnny Hodges fronted a contingent from the band for the first session of the new year. According to some discographies, "Like A Ship In The Night" was arranged by Billy Strayhorn and thus marked the beginning of his association with the Ellington band! From the same session the piano line of "Dooji Woofi" later one became the basis of the blues anthem of "After Hours". "Mississippi Dream Boat" includes a pretty vocal by Jean Eldridge. A nice session by Cootie Williams, including some of his own rather rare vocals, is followed by two Ellington piano-solos, the first since 1936! To be continued...

Classics 500 to 652 are available.

CLASSICS 747

CLASSICS 747

Anatol Schenker, December 1993.

DISCOGRAPHY DUKE ELLINGTON 1938-1939

COOTIE WILLIAMS AND HIS RUG CUTTERS: Cootie Williams-t/Johnny Hodges-ss-as/Barney Bigard-cl-ts/Harry Carney-bar/Otto Hardwick-as-bsx/Duke Ellington-p/Billy Taylor-sb/Sonny Greer-d.

M-954-1	Delta Mood	New York, December 21, 1938.
M-955-1	The Boys From Harlem	Vocalion 4574
M-956-2	Mobile Blues	Vocalion 4574
M-957-1	Gal-Avantin'	Vocalion 4636
		Vocalion 4636

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: Duke Ellington-p-a dir. Wallace Jones-Cootie Williams-t/Rex Stewart-c/Joe "Tricky Sam" Nanton-Lawrence Brown-tb/Juan Tizol-vtb/Barney Bigard-cl/Johnny Hodges-cl-ss-as/Harry Carney-cl-as-bar/Otto Hardwick-as-bsx/Fred Guy-g/Billy Taylor-sb/Sonny Greer-d.

		New York, December 22, 1938.
M-958-2	Blue Light	Brunswick 8297
M-959-1	Old King Dooji	Brunswick 8306
M-960-1	Boy Meets Horn	Brunswick 8306
M-961-1	Slap Happy	Brunswick 8297

JOHNNY HODGES AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Cootie Williams-t/Lawrence Brown-tb/Johnny Hodges-as/Harry Carney-bar/Duke Ellington-p/Billy Taylor-sb/Sonny Greer-d/Jean Eldridge-v.

		New York, February 27, 1939.
M-974-1	Like A Ship In The Night - vJE	Vocalion 4710
M-975-1	Mississippi Dream Boat - vJE	Vocalion 4849
M-976-1	Swingin' On The Campus	Vocalion 4710
M-977-1	Dooji Wooji	Vocalion 4849

COOTIE WILLIAMS AND HIS RUG CUTTERS: Cootie Williams-t-v/Johnny Hodges-as/Barney Bigard-cl-ts/Harry Carney-bar/Duke Ellington-p/Billy Taylor-sb/Sonny Greer-d.

		New York, February 28, 1939.
M-982-1	Beautiful Romance	Vocalion 5411
M-983-1	Boudoir Benny	Vocalion 4726
M-984-1	Ain't The Gravy Good? - vCW	Vocalion 4726
M-985-1	She's Gone - vCW	Vocalion 5411

DUKE ELLINGTON: piano solos.

		New York, March 8, 1939.
M-990-1	Just Good Fun	FDC 1003 (LP)
M-991-1	Informal Blues	FDC 1003 (LP)

REX STEWART AND HIS FIFTY-SECOND STREET STOMPERS: Rex Stewart-c/Louis Bacon-t-v/Joe "Tricky Sam" Nanton-tb/Barney Bigard-cl/Duke Ellington-p/Brick Fleagle-g-a/Billy Taylor-sb/Sonny Greer-d.

		New York, March 20, 1939.
M-994-1	San Juan Hill - aBF	Vocalion 5510
M-995-1	I'll Come Back For More - vLB	Vocalion 5448
M-996-1	Fat Stuff Serenade	Vocalion 5448

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: as for December 22, 1938.

		New York, March 20, 1939.
M-997-1	Pussy Willow	Brunswick 8344
M-998-1	Subtle Lament	Brunswick 8344



The Ellington band in 1934.

At the back: Joe Nanton, Juan Tizol, Laurence Brown, Arthur Whetsol and Fred Guy.

Center: Barney Bigard, Marshall Royal, Johnny Hodges, Harry Carey and Wellman Braud.

In front: Sonny Greer and Freddy Jenkins flanking Duke Ellington. Royal temporary replaced Otto Hardwick.

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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1938 - 1939

DK 003
COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
A.A.D.



- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------|----------------------------|--------------------|------|
| 1 Delta Mood | (M-954-1) 12-21-38 | 2:44 | 13 Beautiful Romance | (M-982-1) 02-28-39 | 2:42 |
| 2 The Boys From Harlem | (M-955-1) 12-21-38 | 2:16 | 14 Boudoir Benny | (M-983-1) 02-28-39 | 2:48 |
| 3 Mobile Blues | (M-956-2) 12-21-38 | 2:30 | 15 Ain't The Gravy Good | (M-984-1) 02-28-39 | 3:05 |
| 4 Gal-Avantin' | (M-957-1) 12-21-38 | 2:20 | 16 She's Gone | (M-985-1) 02-28-39 | 2:59 |
| 5 Blue Light (Transblucency) | (M-958-2) 12-22-38 | 2:42 | 17 Just Good Fun | (M-990-1) 03-08-39 | 2:29 |
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| 11 Swingin' On The Campus | (M-976-1) 02-27-39 | 2:40 | 23 Subtle Lament | (M-998-1) 03-20-39 | 3:03 |
| 12 Dooji Wooji | (M-977-1) 02-27-39 | 2:56 | | | |

1 TO 4, 13 TO 16 COOTIE WILLIAMS AND HIS RUG CUTTERS. 5 TO 8, 22, 23 DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA. 9 TO 12 JOHNNY HODGES AND HIS ORCHESTRA. 17, 18 PIANO SOLOS. 19, 20, 21 REX STEWART AND HIS 52ND STREET STOMPERS. 9, 10 JEAN ELDRIDGE VOCAL. 15, 16 COOTIE WILLIAMS VOCAL. 20 LOUIS BACON VOCAL.

ALSO AVAILABLE BY DUKE ELLINGTON : CLASSICS 539 (1924-27), 542 (27-28), 550 (28), 559 (28-29), 569 (29), 577 (29-30), 586 (30), 596 (30 Vol. 2), 605 (30-31), 616 (31-32), 626 (32-33), 637 (33), 646 (33-35), 659 (35-36), 666 (36-37), 675 (37), 687 (37 Vol. 2), 700 (38), 717 (38 Vol. 2) & 726 (38 Vol.3).

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CLASSICS 747 DUKE ELLINGTON 1938-1939

DUKE ELLINGTON 1938-1939 CLASSICS 747

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