



DUKE ELLINGTON
AND HIS ORCHESTRA
1938 (VOLUME II)

STEMRA
CLASSICS 717

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DIGITAL AUDIO

CLASSICS

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THE CHRONOLOGICAL



DUKE ELLINGTON
AND HIS ORCHESTRA
1938 Vol.2

WITH JOHNNY HODGES, COOTIE WILLIAMS, REX STEWART,
LAWRENCE BROWN, TRICKY SAM, HARRY CARNEY,
IVIE ANDERSON, JUAN TIZOL...

CLASSICS

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1938

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|----------|------|
| 1 | CARNIVAL IN CAROLINE (Ellington-Nemo-Mills)
<i>(M-803-1)</i> | 04-04-38 | 2:19 |
| 2 | OL' MAN RIVER (Kern-Hammerstein)
<i>(M-804-1)</i> | 04-04-38 | 2:46 |
| 3 | SWINGTIME IN HONOLULU (Nemo-Mills-Ellington)
<i>(M-809-1)</i> | 04-11-38 | 2:53 |
| 4 | I'M SLAPPIN' SEVENTH AVENUE (WITH THE SOLE OF MY SHOE)
<i>(M-810-1)</i> (Nemo-Mills-Ellington) | 04-11-38 | 2:34 |
| 5 | DINAH'S IN A JAM (Ellington-Mills)
<i>(M-811-1)</i> | 04-11-38 | 2:48 |
| 6 | YOU GAVE ME THE GATE (AND I'M SWINGIN')
<i>(M-832-1)</i> (Gordon-McNeely-Farmer-Ellington) | 06-07-38 | 2:18 |
| 7 | ROSE OF THE RIO GRANDE (Leslie-Warren-Gorman)
<i>(M-833-1)</i> | 06-07-38 | 2:56 |
| 8 | PYRAMID (Tizol-Ellington-Mills)
<i>(M-834-1)</i> | 06-07-38 | 2:50 |
| 9 | WHEN MY SUGAR WALKS DOWN THE STREET (ALL THE LITTLE BIRDIES GO TWEET-TWEET-TWEET)
<i>(M-835-1)</i> (Austin-McHugh-Mills) | 06-07-38 | 2:34 |
| 10 | WATERMELON MAN (Ellington)
<i>(M-844-1)</i> | 06-20-38 | 2:30 |
| 11 | A GYPSY WITHOUT A SONG (Gordon-Ellington-Singer-Tizol)
<i>(M-845-1)</i> | 06-20-38 | 2:54 |
| 12 | THE STEVEDORE'S SERENADE (Edelstein-Gordon-Ellington)
<i>(M-846-1)</i> | 06-20-38 | 2:43 |
| 13 | LA DE DOODY DOO (Ellington-Lambert-Richards)
<i>(M-847-2)</i> | 06-20-38 | 2:23 |

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|-----------|--|----------|------|
| 14 | YOU WALKED OUT OF THE PICTURE (Little-Oppenheim-Tobias)
<i>(M-852-2)</i> | 06-22-38 | 2:46 |
| 15 | PYRAMID (Gordon-Ellington-Tizol)
<i>(M-853-1)</i> | 06-22-38 | 2:49 |
| 16 | EMPTY BALLROOM BLUES (Ellington-Williams)
<i>(M-854-1)</i> | 06-22-38 | 2:24 |
| 17 | LOST IN MEDITATION (Mills-Ellington-Tizol-Singer)
<i>(M-855-2)</i> | 06-22-38 | 2:39 |
| 18 | A BLUES SERENADE (Parish-Signorelli-Grande-Lytell)
<i>(M-872-2)</i> | 08-01-38 | 2:38 |
| 19 | LOVE IN SWINGTIME (Lambert-Richards-Mills)
<i>(M-873-1)</i> | 08-01-38 | 2:46 |
| 20 | SWINGIN' IN THE DELL (Ellington-Hodges)
<i>(M-874-1)</i> | 08-01-38 | 2:31 |
| 21 | JITTERBUG'S LULLABY (Mills-Ellington-Hodges)
<i>(M-875-1)</i> | 08-01-38 | 2:56 |
| 22 | CHASIN' CHIPPIES (Ellington-Williams)
<i>(M-876-1)</i> | 08-02-38 | 2:55 |
| 23 | BLUE IS THE EVENING (Clare-Akst)
<i>(M-877-1)</i> | 08-02-38 | 3:05 |

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724 : SLIM GAILLARD 1939-40...

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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1938

This CD includes recordings both by Duke Ellington's full orchestra and by small-groups of musicians from within the band. Although some of these tracks may not rank among the most original in the vast Duke Ellington discography, Gunther Schuller's statement that "we constantly are reminded that even Ellington's lesser efforts are superior to most of the better work of his contemporaries" remains an irrefutable fact!

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 in chronological order picks up with two additional tracks by Cootie Williams and His Rug Cutters. The full band then takes over for the sides that follow. On June 7, 1938, Ellington recorded "Rose Of The Rio Grande", which inspires a majestic solo from Lawrence Brown. The trombonist's elegant style provided a beautiful contrast with those of Tricky Sam Nanton and Juan Tizol. A rather commercial interpretation, which remained in the band's book for many years. The session ends with a track that once again proves Schuller's aforementioned contention. "A Gypsy Without A Song", recorded two weeks later, has been called "a masterpiece of period nostalgia". Most of the remaining tracks feature Johnny Hodges at his romantic best, particularly on the sentimental "You Walked Out Of The Picture", an item that also features Mary McHugh's airy voice. Besides being a master of the alto-sax, Hodges was an equally gifted soprano-saxophonist, and his playing on "Empty Ballroom Blues" documents this often overlooked aspect of his work. This CD ends with the first half of a Cootie Williams date, which brings an excellent vocal from Scat Powell on "Blue Is The Evening". Here is yet another fine singer of whom almost nothing is known. These 23 pieces of Ellingtonia were all recorded within less than four months! To be continued...

Anatol Schenker, June 1993.

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DISCOGRAPHY DUKE ELLINGTON 1938

COOTIE WILLIAMS AND HIS RUG CUTTERS: Cootie Williams-t-v/Joe "Tricky Sam" Nanton-tb/Johnny Hodges-ss-as/Barney Bigard-cl-ts/Harry Carney-bar/Duke Ellington-p/Fred Guy-g/Billy Taylor-sb/Sonny Greer-d/Jerry Kruger-v.

M-803-1	Carnival In Caroline - vJK	New York, April 4, 1938.
M-804-1	Ol' Man River - vJK	Brunswick 4061 Vocalion 4086

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: Duke Ellington-p-a dir. Wallace Jones-Cootie Williams-Harold Baker-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/lvie Anderson-v.

M-809-1	Swingtime In Honolulu - vIA	New York, April 11, 1938.
M-810-1	I'm Slappin' Seventh Avenue (With The Sole Of My Shoe)	Brunswick 8131
M-811-1	Dinah's In A Jam	Brunswick 8131 Brunswick 8169

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: Baker omitted; Ellington plays tom-toms*.

M-832-1	You Gave Me The Gate (And I'm Swingin') - vIA	New York, June 7, 1938.
M-833-1	Rose Of The Rio Grande - vIA	Brunswick 8169
M-834-1	*Pyramid	Brunswick 8186
M-835-1	When My Sugar Walks Down The Street - vIA	Brunswick 8168 Brunswick 8168

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: same.

M-844-1	Watermelon Man - vIA	New York, June 20, 1938.
M-845-1	A Gypsy Without A Song	Brunswick 8200
M-846-1	The Stevedore's Serenade	Brunswick 8186
M-847-2	La De Doody Doo - vIA	Brunswick 8174 Brunswick 8174

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

M-852-2	You Walked Out Of The Picture - vMM	New York, June 22, 1938.
M-853-1	Pyramid	Vocalion 4213
M-854-1	Empty Ballroom Blues	Vocalion 4242
M-855-2	Lost In Meditation - vMM	Vocalion 4213 Vocalion 4242

JOHNNY HODGES AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Leon La Fell-v.

M-872-2	A Blues Serenade - vLLF	New York, August 1, 1938.
M-873-1	Love In Swingtime - vLLF	Vocalion 4309
M-874-1	Swingin' In The Dell	Vocalion 4335
M-875-1	Jitterbug's Lullaby	Vocalion 4335 Vocalion 4309

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

M-876-1	Chasin' Chippies	New York, August 2, 1938.
M-877-1	Blue Is The Evening - vSP	Vocalion 4425 Vocalion 4324

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Johnny Hedges.



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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1938 Vol.2

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|----|---|-----------|----------|------|----|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|------|
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1, 2, 22, 23 COOTIE WILLIAMS AND HIS RUG CUTTERS. 3 TO 13 DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA. 14 TO 21 JOHNNY HODGES AND HIS ORCHESTRA. 1, 2 JERRY KRUGER VOCAL. 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13 IVIE ANDERSON VOCAL. 14, 17 MARY McHUGH VOCAL. 18, 19 LEON LA FELL VOCAL. 23 SCAT POWELL 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).

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