



DUKE ELLINGTON
AND HIS ORCHESTRA
1939

STEMRA
CLASSICS 765

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

CLASSICS

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THE CHRONOLOGICAL



DUKE ELLINGTON
AND HIS ORCHESTRA
1939

WITH BARNEY BIGARD, THE QUINTONES, REX STEWART,
JOHNNY HODGES, COOTIE WILLIAMS, HARRY CARNEY,
FRED GUY, LAWRENCE BROWN...

CLASSICS

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1939

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|-----------|---|----------|------|-----------|--|----------|------|
| 1 | LADY IN BLUE (Ellington)
<i>(M-999-1)</i> | 03-20-39 | 2:55 | 14 | HOME TOWN BLUES (Hodges)
<i>(WM-1029-A)</i> | 06-02-39 | 2:38 |
| 2 | SMORGASBORD AND SCHNAPPS (Ellington-Stewart-Fleagle)
<i>(M-1000-1)</i> | 03-20-39 | 2:41 | 15 | COTTON CLUB STOMP (Carney-Hodges-Ellington)
<i>(WM-1030-A)</i> | 06-06-39 | 2:52 |
| 3 | SAVOY STRUT (Hodges-Ellington)
<i>(WM-1001-1)</i> | 03-21-39 | 2:33 | 16 | DOIN' THE VOOM VOOM (Miley-Ellington)
<i>(WM-1031-A)</i> | 06-06-39 | 2:40 |
| 4 | RENT PARTY BLUES (Ellington)
<i>(WM-1002-1)</i> | 03-21-39 | 2:41 | 17 | WAY LOW (Ellington)
<i>(WM-1032-A)</i> | 06-06-39 | 3:28 |
| 5 | DANCE OF THE GOON (Hodges-Ellington)
<i>(WM-1003-1)</i> | 03-21-39 | 2:38 | 18 | SERENADE TO SWEDEN (Ellington)
<i>(WM-1033-A)</i> | 06-06-39 | 3:20 |
| 6 | GOOD GAL BLUES (Ellington)
<i>(WM-1004-1)</i> | 03-21-39 | 2:58 | 19 | LITT-DA-ZAY (THE TAILOR SONG) (Ram-Mills)
<i>(WM-1034-A)</i> | 06-08-39 | 2:45 |
| 7 | FINESSE (NIGHT WIND) (Hodges-Ellington)
<i>(WM-1005-1)</i> | 03-21-39 | 2:36 | 20 | CHEW CHEW CHEW (CHEW YOUR BUBBLE GUM)
<i>(WM-1035-A)</i> (Ram-Webb-Fitzgerald) | 06-08-39 | 2:39 |
| 8 | PORTRAIT OF THE LION (Ellington)
<i>(WM-1006-1)</i> | 03-21-39 | 2:25 | 21 | BARNEY GOIN' EASY (Bigard)
<i>(WM-1036-A)</i> | 06-08-39 | 2:56 |
| 9 | (I WANT) SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR (Ellington-Strayhorn)
<i>(WM-1007-1)</i> | 03-21-39 | 2:51 | 22 | JUST ANOTHER DREAM (Bigard)
<i>(WM-1037-A)</i> | 06-08-39 | 2:42 |
| 10 | SOLID OLD MAN (Ellington)
<i>(WM-1008-1)</i> | 03-21-39 | 2:40 | | | | |
| 11 | KITCHEN MECHANIC'S DAY (Mills-Hodges)
<i>(WM-1026-A)</i> | 06-02-39 | 2:29 | | | | |
| 12 | MY HEART JUMPED OVER THE MOON (Mills-Hodges)
<i>(WM-1027-A)</i> | 06-02-39 | 2:35 | | | | |
| 13 | YOU CAN COUNT ON ME (Maxwell-Myrow)
<i>(WM-1028-A)</i> | 06-02-39 | 3:14 | | | | |

Photos: Ellington and Bigard courtesy of Le Hot Club De France,
Carney from the Zwonicek collection.

THE CLASSICS CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES

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| 677 : WILLIE "THE LION" SMITH 1937-38 | 711 : JAMES P. JOHNSON 1938-42 | 745 : MIDGE WILLIAMS 1937-38 |
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| 694 : MEZZ MEZZROW 1936-39 | 728 : AL COOPER 1938-41 | 762 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1937 (VOLUME II) |
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| 697 : FLETCHER HENDERSON 1923 | 731 : MILLS BLUE RHYTHM BAND 1936-37 | 765 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1939 |
| 698 : JACK TEAGARDEN 1930-34 | 732 : FATS WALLER 1934-35 | 766 : BUNNY BERIGAN 1937 |
| 699 : CLAUDE HOPKINS 1932-34 | 733 : CLAUDE HOPKINS 1937-40 | 767 : GENE KRUPA 1938 |
| 700 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1938 | 734 : BUNNY BERIGAN 1935-36 | 768 : WILLIE BRYANT 1935-36 |
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| 702 : FATS WALLER 1929 | 736 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1927 | 770 : JOHN KIRBY 1939-41 |
| 703 : DJANGO REINHARDT 1934-35 | 737 : EDDIE SOUTH 1937-41 | 771 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1928-29 |
| 704 : BLUE LU BARKER 1938-39 | 738 : BOOTS AND HIS BUDDIES 1937-38 | 772 : EDDIE CONDON 1942-43 |
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| 706 : STUFF SMITH 1936-39 | 740 : JAY McSHANN 1941-43 | 774 : WINGY MANONE 1927-34... |

Classics 500 to 672 are available.

CLASSICS 765

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1939

“Johnny Hodges has complete independence of expression. He says it in his language, which is specific, and you could say that his is pure artistry. He’s the only man I know who can pick up a cold horn and play in tune without tuning up. And I’ve heard plenty of cats who can’t play in tune if they tune up all day”. (Duke Ellington)

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.

In addition to the full big-band orchestrations, this volume of the recordings of Duke Ellington, presented in chronological order, also includes several particularly fine examples of Johnny Hodges’ ballad artistry, the character of which is so aptly described by Ellington in the opening lines. The two remaining tracks from March 20, 1939 include another arrangement by Brick Fleagle. Billy Strayhorn’s chart of “Savoy Strut” opens the following great small-group date by Johnny Hodges. “Finesse” is a composition of immense beauty, and Johnny’s caressing treatment extracts the essence from this haunting melody. This is one of his most memorable performances of the late thirties. Ellington’s “Portrait Of The Lion”, a tribute to Willie “The Lion” Smith, is another masterpiece in a series of musical eulogies by the Duke. In the spring of 1939, the Ellington orchestra visited Europe for the second time, which meant that he and the band did not record commercially for almost three months. One very notable exception, a session in Paris by Rex Stewart with Barney Bigard and Billy Taylor, will be issued under the Django Reinhardt name. Upon returning to America, Hodges was again in charge of a contingent from the band. His alto rarely sounded more romantic than on “My Heart Jumped Over The Moon”! After a romping remake of “Cotton Club Stomp”, Ellington cut the beautiful “Serenade To Sweden”, composed during his short Scandinavian tour. This CD ends with some swinging sides by Barney Bigard, accompanying the Quintones. To be continued...

Anatol Schenker, April 1994.

CLASSICS 765

DISCOGRAPHY DUKE ELLINGTON 1939

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/Brick Fleagle-a.

M-999-1 Lady In Blue New York, March 20, 1939.
 M-1000-1 Smorgasbord And Schnapps - aBF Columbia 35291
 Brunswick 8380

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/Billy Strayhorn-a; Hodges - Ellington -Taylor only".

New York, March 21, 1939.
 WM-1001-1 Savoy Strut - aBS Vocalion 5170
 WM-1002-1 Rent Party Blues Vocalion 5100
 WM-1003-1 Dance Of The Goon Vocalion 4941
 WM-1004-1 Good Gal Blues Vocalion 5170
 WM-1005-1 *Finesse (Night Wind) Columbia CL-663 (LP)

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: as for March 20 but Billy Strayhorn-p-a replaces Ellington on the second title below; Jean Eldridge-v.

New York, March 21, 1939.
 WM-1006-1 Portrait Of The Lion Brunswick 8365
 WM-1007-1 (I Want) Something To Live For - vJE Brunswick 8365
 WM-1008-1 Solid Old Man Brunswick 8380

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.

New York, June 2, 1939.
 WM-1026-A Kitchen Mechanic's Day Vocalion 4917
 WM-1027-A My Heart Jumped Over The Moon Vocalion 5330
 WM-1028-A You Can Count On Me Vocalion 4917
 WM-1029-A Home Town Blues Vocalion 4941

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: as for March 20.

New York, June 6, 1939.
 WM-1030-A Cotton Club Stomp Brunswick 8405
 WM-1031-A Doin' The Voom Voom Columbia 35208
 WM-1032-A Way Low Brunswick 8411
 WM-1033-A Serenade To Sweden Columbia 35214

THE QUINTONES WITH BARNEY BIGARD AND HIS ORCHESTRA (4928)/BARNEY BIGARD AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Rex Stewart-c/Juan Tizol-vtb/Barney Bigard-cl/Harry Carney-bar/Duke Ellington-p/Fred Guy-g/Billy Taylor-sb/Sonny Greer-d/The Quintones-v group/Billy Strayhorn-a.

New York, June 8, 1939.
 WM-1034-A Utt-Da-Zay (The Tailor Song) - vQ Vocalion 4928
 WM-1035-A Chew-Chew-Chew (Your Bubble Gum) - vQ Vocalion 4928
 WM-1036-A Barney Goin' Easy Vocalion 5378
 WM-1037-A Just Another Dream Okeh 5663



Harry Carney.



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Barney Bigard.



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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1939

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



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|----|--------------------------------|-------------|----------|------|----|---------------------------------------|-------------|----------|------|
| 1 | Lady In Blue | (M-999-1) | 03-20-39 | 2:55 | 12 | My Heart Jumped Over The Moon | (WM-1027-A) | 06-02-39 | 2:35 |
| 2 | Smorgasbord And Schnapps | (M-1000-1) | 03-20-39 | 2:41 | 13 | You Can Count On Me | (WM-1028-A) | 06-02-39 | 3:14 |
| 3 | Savoy Strut | (WM-1001-1) | 03-21-39 | 2:33 | 14 | Home Town Blues | (WM-1029-A) | 06-02-39 | 2:38 |
| 4 | Rent Party Blues | (WM-1002-1) | 03-21-39 | 2:41 | 15 | Cotton Club Stomp | (WM-1030-A) | 06-06-39 | 2:52 |
| 5 | Dance Of The Goon | (WM-1003-1) | 03-21-39 | 2:38 | 16 | Doin' The Voom Voom | (WM-1031-A) | 06-06-39 | 2:40 |
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| 10 | Solid Old Man | (WM-1008-1) | 03-21-39 | 2:40 | 21 | Barney Goin' Easy | (WM-1036-A) | 06-08-39 | 2:56 |
| 11 | Kitchen Mechanic's Day | (WM-1026-A) | 06-02-39 | 2:29 | 22 | Just Another Dream | (WM-1037-A) | 06-08-39 | 2:42 |

1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 15 TO 18 DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA. 3 TO 7, 11 TO 14 JOHNNY HODGES
AND HIS ORCHESTRA. 19, 20 THE QUINTONES WITH BARNEY BIGARD AND HIS ORCHESTRA.
21, 22 BARNEY BIGARD AND HIS ORCHESTRA. 9 JEAN ELDRIDGE 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) & 747 (1938-39).

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