



DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1941

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|-----------|--|----------|------|-----------|--|----------|------|
| 1 | JUMP FOR JOY (Ellington-Webster-Kuller)
(061340-2) | 07-02-41 | 2:53 | 14 | CHELSEA BRIDGE (Strayhorn)
(061687-1) | 09-26-41 | 2:58 |
| 2 | MOON OVER CUBA (Ellington-Tizol)
(061341-1) | 07-02-41 | 3:09 | 15 | BROWN SUEDE (Ellington)
(061688-1) | 09-29-41 | 3:06 |
| 3 | SOME SATURDAY (Stewart)
(061342-1) | 07-03-41 | 3:00 | 16 | NOIR BLEU (Strayhorn)
(061689-1) | 09-29-41 | 3:12 |
| 4 | SUBTLE SLOUGH (Ellington)
(061343-1) | 07-03-41 | 3:16 | 17 | "C" BLUES (Ellington)
(061690-1) | 09-29-41 | 2:53 |
| 5 | MENELIK - THE LION OF JUDAH (Stewart)
(061344-1) | 07-03-41 | 3:17 | 18 | JUNE (Bigard)
(061691-1) | 09-29-41 | 3:14 |
| 6 | POOR BUBBER (Stewart)
(061345-1) | 07-03-41 | 3:18 | 19 | RAINCHECK (Strayhorn)
(061941-1) | 12-02-41 | 2:28 |
| 7 | SQUATY ROO (Hodges)
(061346-1) | 07-03-41 | 2:24 | 20 | WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO? (Pepper-James)
(061942-1) | 12-02-41 | 2:44 |
| 8 | PASSION FLOWER (Strayhorn)
(061347-1) | 07-03-41 | 3:06 | 21 | I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF BLUES I GOT (Ellington)
(061943-1) | 12-02-41 | 3:13 |
| 9 | THINGS AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE (Ellington)
(061348-1) | 07-03-41 | 3:36 | 22 | CHELSEA BRIDGE (Strayhorn)
(061687-1) | 12-02-41 | 2:52 |
| 10 | GOIN' OUT THE BACK WAY (Hodges)
(061349-1) | 07-03-41 | 2:40 | | | | |
| 11 | FIVE O'CLOCK DRAG (Ellington)
(061684-1) | 09-26-41 | 3:11 | | | | |
| 12 | ROCKS IN MY BED (Ellington)
(061685-1) | 09-26-41 | 3:04 | | | | |
| 13 | BLI-BLIP (Ellington-Kuller)
(061686-1) | 09-26-41 | 3:03 | | | | |

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CLASSICS 851

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1941

The small-group sessions led by Ellington's star soloists tended to offer greater artistic freedom, hence allowing experiments with material not necessarily suitable for the big band. Among the many recording sessions in this category, few were more remarkable than those by Rex Stewart and Johnny Hodges included here.

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, opens with a rousing "Jump For Joy" that includes a hot vocal by Ivie Anderson. "Moon Over Cuba" features the composer Juan Tizol on his smooth valve-trombone. On July 3, 1941, Rex Stewart and Johnny Hodges recorded some of their most impressive and most durable music. Rex opens with four thrilling performances, all of them real gems. "Some Saturday" is a romantic masterpiece, featuring Ben Webster at his very best. "Subtle Slough", subsequently re-titled "Just Squeeze Me", later became a popular feature for Ray Nance. And "Poor Bubber" is a moving tribute to the great Bubber Miley, one of the band's first trumpet-stars. Later that same day, Johnny Hodges cut four truly outstanding sides under his own name. The simple, yet eminently swinging "Squaty Roo" is followed by one of his most impressive ballad-performances on record, "Passion Flower", a performance that finds him at his most seductive. It is fascinating to hear how slowly "Things Ain't What They Used To Be" was played originally - and how much it swung even then. "Bli-Blip", by the full band, was also featured in "Jump For Joy" (the play), shows off Ray Nance's flippant vocal. The first version of Strayhorn's stunningly beautiful "Chelsea Bridge" differs considerably from the better-known take, which was recorded two months later. Before September was out Barney Bigard also turned in four fine performances at the head of a small band. "C Blues" was later re-titled "C-Jam Blues". Sadly, this proved the last recording session with the great Jimmy Blanton, who died of tuberculosis less than a year later. To be continued...

Anatol Schenker, September 1995.

CLASSICS 851

DISCOGRAPHY DUKE ELLINGTON 1941

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: Duke Ellington-p-a dir. Wallace Jones-Ray Nance-t/Rex Stewart-c/Joel "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/Ben Webster-ts/Fred Guy-g/Jimmy Blanton-sb/Sonny Greer-d/Ivie Anderson-v.

061340-2 Jump For Joy - v/A
061341-1 Moon Over Cuba

Hollywood, July 2, 1941.
Victor LPM-6704 (LP)
Victor 27587

REX STEWART AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Rex Stewart-c/Lawrence Brown-tb/Ben Webster-ts/Harry Carney-as-bar/Duke Ellington-p/Jimmy Blanton-sb/Sonny Greer-d.

061342-1 Some Saturday
061343-1 Subtle Slough
061344-1 Menelik - The Lion Of Judah
061345-1 Poor Bubber

Hollywood, July 3, 1941.
Bluebird B-11258
Bluebird B-11258
HMV JO-282 (UK)
HMV JO-282 (UK)

JOHNNY HODGES AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Ray Nance-t/Lawrence Brown-tb/Johnny Hodges-as/Harry Carney-bar/Duke Ellington-p/Jimmy Blanton-sb/Sonny Greer-d/Billy Strayhorn-a.

061346-1 Squaty Roo
061347-1 Passion Flower - aBS
061348-1 Things Ain't What They Used To Be
061349-1 Goin' Out The Back Way

same date.
Bluebird B-11447
Bluebird 30-0817
Bluebird B-11447
Bluebird 30-0817

CLASSICS 851

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: Duke Ellington-p-a dir. Wallace Jones-t/Ray Nance-t-v/Rex Stewart-c/Joel "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/Ben Webster-ts/Fred Guy-g/Jimmy Blanton-sb/Sonny Greer-d/Ivie Anderson-v/Billy Strayhorn-p-a where noted.

061684-1 Five O'Clock Drag
061685-1 Rocks In My Bed - pBS/v/A
061686-1 Bli-Blip - vRN
061687-1 Chelsea Bridge - pBS

Hollywood, September 26, 1941.
Victor 27700
Victor 27639
Victor 27639
RCA FXM1-7274 (LP)
(France) 2nd pressing

BARNEY BIGARD AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Ray Nance-t/Juan Tizol-vtb/Barney Bigard-cl/Harry Carney-bar/Duke Ellington-p/Jimmy Blanton-sb/Sonny Greer-d.

061688-1 Brown Suede
061689-1 Noir Bleu
061690-1 "C" Blues
061691-1 June

Hollywood, September 29, 1941.
Bluebird B-11581
Victor 75743 (LP)
Bluebird B-11581
HMV JO-290 (UK)

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: as September 26 except Junior Raglin-sb replaces Blanton, Herb Jeffries-v replaces Anderson.

061941-1 Raincheck - aBS
061942-1 What Good Would It Do ? - pBS/v/HJ
061943-1 I Don't Know What Kind of Blues I Got - vHJ
061687-2 Chelsea Bridge - p-aBS

Hollywood, December 2, 1941.
Victor 27880
Victor 27740
Victor 27804
Victor 27740

CLASSICS 851



Herb Jeffries & Duke Ellington with front: Carney, Hardwick, Hodges, Webster, Tizol, Wallace Jones, Nance, Chidden & Stewart.
Back: Alvin Raglin, Fred Guy, Bigard, Sonny Greer, Tricky Sam, Lawrence Brown.

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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1941

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DK 003

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
A.A.D.



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|----|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|------|----|---------------------------------------|------------|----------|------|
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1, 2, 11 TO 14, 19 TO 22, DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA. 3 TO 6 REX STEWART AND HIS ORCHESTRA. 7 TO 10 JOHNNY HODGES AND HIS ORCHESTRA. 15 TO 18 BARNEY BIGARD AND HIS ORCHESTRA. 1, 12 IVIE ANDERSON VOCAL. 13 RAY NANCE VOCAL. 20, 21 HERB JEFFRIES VOCAL.

ALSO AVAILABLE BY DUKE ELLINGTON : CLASSICS 539, 542, 550, 559, 569, 577, 586, 596, 605, 616, 626, 637, 646, 659, 666, 675, 687, 700, 717, 726, 747, 765, 780, 790, 805, 820 & 837.

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