



DUKE ELLINGTON  
AND HIS ORCHESTRA  
1945

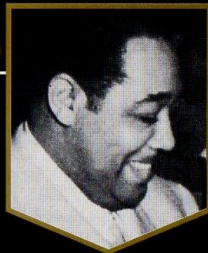
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THE CHRONOLOGICAL



DUKE ELLINGTON  
AND HIS ORCHESTRA  
1945

WITH TOMMY DORSEY, CAT ANDERSON, RAY NANCE,  
TAFT JORDAN, REX STEWART, CLAUDE JONES,  
LAWRENCE BROWN, HARRY CARNEY...

CLASSICS

## DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1945

- |           |  |          |      |
|-----------|--|----------|------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>FRANTIC FANTASY</b> (Stewart-Ellington)<br><i>(VP-1315)</i>                             | 04-21-45 | 4:42 |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>IT DON'T MEAN A THING</b> (Mills-Ellington)<br><i>(VP-1316)</i>                         | 04-21-45 | 4:27 |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>BLACK, BROWN AND BEIGE - PART 1 a/ BLUES</b><br><i>(JDB-109)</i> (Ellington)            | 04-21-45 | 6:42 |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>BLACK, BROWN AND BEIGE - PART 2 b/ WEST INDIAN DANCE</b><br><i>(JDB-89)</i> (Ellington) | 04-21-45 | 6:28 |
|           | <b>c/ EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION</b>   |          |      |
|           | <b>d/ SUGAR HILL PENTHOUSE</b>   |          |      |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>THE KISSING BUG</b> (Strayhorn-Stewart-Sherrill)<br><i>(D5VB-232-1)</i>                 | 04-26-45 | 3:00 |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>EVERYTHING BUT YOU</b> (Ellington-James-George)<br><i>(D5VB-233-1)</i>                  | 05-01-45 | 2:50 |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>RIFF STACCATO</b> (Orent-Schwartz)<br><i>(D5VB-234-1)</i>                               | 05-01-45 | 3:03 |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>PRELUDE TO A KISS</b> (Ellington-Mills-Gordon)<br><i>(D5VB-261-1)</i>                   | 05-10-45 | 3:00 |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>CARAVAN</b> (Tizol-Ellington-Mills)<br><i>(D5VB-262-1)</i>                              | 05-11-45 | 2:45 |
| <b>10</b> | <b>BLACK AND TAN FANTASY</b> (Ellington-Miley)<br><i>(D5VB-263-1)</i>                      | 05-11-45 | 2:48 |
| <b>11</b> | <b>MOOD INDIGO</b> (Bigard-Ellington-Mills)<br><i>(D5VB-264-1)</i>                         | 05-11-45 | 2:44 |

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|-----------|--|----------|------|
| <b>12</b> | <b>HARLEM AIRSHAFT</b> (Ellington)<br><i>(VP-1351)</i>                                 | 05-12-45 | 3:59 |
| <b>13</b> | <b>THE MINOR GOES A MUGGIN'</b> (Oliver)<br><i>(D5VB-758-1)</i>                        | 05-14-45 | 2:58 |
| <b>14</b> | <b>IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD</b> (Ellington-Mills-Kurtz)<br><i>(D5VB-265-1)</i>            | 05-14-45 | 2:58 |
| <b>15</b> | <b>IT DON'T MEAN A THING</b> (Mills-Ellington)<br><i>(D5VB-266-1)</i>                  | 05-14-45 | 2:59 |
| <b>16</b> | <b>SOPHISTICATED LADY</b> (Ellington-Parish-Mills)<br><i>(D5VB-267-1)</i>              | 05-14-45 | 2:39 |
| <b>17</b> | <b>TONIGHT I SHALL SLEEP</b> (Gordon-Ellington-Ellington)<br><i>(D5VB-268-1)</i>       | 05-14-45 | 2:56 |
| <b>18</b> | <b>I LET A SONG GO OUT OF MY HEART</b> (Ellington-Mills-Remond)<br><i>(D5VB-269-1)</i> | 05-15-45 | 3:02 |
| <b>19</b> | <b>SOLITUDE</b> (Ellington-De Lange-Mills)<br><i>(D5VB-270-1)</i>                      | 05-15-45 | 3:02 |

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 912 : KANSAS CITY 5, 6 & 7 1938-44  
 913 : FATS WALLER 1938  
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 915 : DUKE ELLINGTON 1945  
 916 : TOMMY DORSEY 1936-37  
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 918 : CLARENCE WILLIAMS 1934-37  
 919 : BILLY KYLE 1937-38  
 920 : ROY ELDRIDGE 1943-46  
 921 : LOUIS JORDAN 1945-46  
 922 : LIONEL HAMPTON 1945-46  
 923 : BENNY CARTER 1943-46  
 924 : ERROLL GARNER 1945-46...

Classics 500 to 822 are available.

**CLASSICS 915**

## DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1945

After Duke Ellington's long period of absence from the studios, RCA-Victor was eager to record his new compositions together with some older hits that had been made for other companies in order to satisfy demand from his fans. The band was also given the opportunity to make some additional V-Disc recordings for the U.S. Army. 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 chronological recordings of Duke Ellington and his Orchestra includes 19 tracks that were made within a month in the spring of 1945. The opening tracks from V-Disc recordings offer the advantage of extended playing time and come closer to the way the band played on stage than most studio-productions. In fact, these four tracks were recorded during a concert at the "400 Club" in New York City, where the band played regularly at the time. Parts of these concerts were recorded by the Armed Forces Radio Service and issued on transcriptions and on V-Disc. "It Don't Mean A Thing" includes magnificent solos by Hodges, Ray Nance and Lawrence Brown. This version is superior to the commercial issue made in April 1945, although the latter is completely different. Excerpts from "Black Brown & Beige", premiered at Ellington's first Carnegie Hall Concert on January 23 1943, had already been recorded by RCA-Victor in December 1944 (see Classics 881). These selections from the extended suite stem from the same source. "Kissing Bug" and "Everything But You" are new compositions by Ellington, the latter piece featuring a fantastic solo by Harry Carney. The new versions of old favorites show how timeless these tunes were at the time - and how timeless they still are. "Tonight I Shall Sleep" feature trombonist Tommy Dorsey with Ellington's band on a little-known, yet excellent track. The closing re-recording of "Solitude", Duke's 1934 masterpiece is a perfect example of his eagerness to experiment by the addition of new elements to his compositions: the voices of Marie Ellington, Kay Davis, Joya Sherrill and Al Hibbler blend marvelously with the sensuous alto-sax of Johnny Hodges. An unusual and unique experiment! To be continued...

Anatol Schenker, October 1996.

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**DISCOGRAPHY DUKE ELLINGTON 1945**

**DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA:** Duke Ellington-p dir. Shelton "Scad" Hemphill-William "Cat" Anderson-t/Taft Jordan-t-v/Ray Nance-t-vn-v/Joe "Tricky Sam" Nanton-Claude Jones-Lawrence Brown-tb/Al Sears-ts/Jimmy Hamilton-cl-ts/Johnny Hodges-Otto Hardwick-as/Harry Carney-bar-cl/Fred Guy-g/Alvin "Junior" Raglin-b/Sonny Greer-d/Marie Ellington (as "Marie")-Joya Sherrill-Kay Davis-v.

VP-1315 Frantic Fantasy  
 VP-1316 It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing) - vRN-TJ  
 JDB-109 Black, Brown And Beige - Part 1  
 a/ Blues - vME

New York, April 21, 1945.  
 V-Disc 575-B  
 V-Disc 480-B  
 V-Disc 657-A

JDB-89 Black, Brown And Beige - Part 2  
 b/ West Indian Dance  
 c/ Emancipation Celebration  
 d/ Sugar Hill Penthouse

V-Disc 657-B

NOTE : on JDB-109, spoken introduction by Barry Ulanov.

**DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA:** same.

D5VB-232-1 The Kissing Bug - vJS

New York, April 26, 1945.  
 Victor 20-1670

**DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA:** same.

D5VB-233-1 Everything But You - vJS  
 D5VB-234-2 Riff Staccato - vRN

New York, May 1, 1945.  
 Victor 20-1697  
 Victor 20-1697

**DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA:** same.

D5VB-261-1 Prelude To A Kiss

New York, May 10, 1945.  
 Victor LPT-1004 (LP)

**DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA:** same.

D5VB-262-1 Caravan  
 D5VB-263-1 Black And Tan Fantasy  
 D5VB-264-1 Mood Indigo - vKD

New York, May 11, 1945.  
 Victor 20-3291  
 Victor 27-0057  
 Victor LPM-6009 (LP)

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**DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA:** Duke Ellington-p dir. Rex Stewart-Scad Hemphill-Taft Jordan-Cat Anderson-t/Ray Nance-t-vn/Joe "Tricky Sam" Nanton-Claude Jones-Lawrence Brown-tb/Jimmy Hamilton-cl-ts/Johnny Hodges-Otto Hardwick-as/Al Sears-sb/Harry Carney-bar-cl-bcl/Fred Guy-g/Bob Haggart-b/Sonny Greer-d.

VP-1351 Harlem Airshaft

New York, May 12, 1945.  
 V-Disc 483-A

**DUKE ELLINGTON WITH TOMMY DORSEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA:** Tommy Dorsey-tb dir. Charlie Shavers-George Seaberg-Mickey Mangano-Gerald Goff-t/Karl DeKarske-Dick Noel-Tex Satterwhite-tb/Joseph Park-tu/Gus Bivona-cl-as/Sid Cooper-as/Vido Musso-Babe Fresk-ts/Bruce Branson-bar/Duke Ellington-p/Bob Baling/Bob Haggart-b/Buddy Rich-d/Sy Oliver-a.

D5VB-758-1 The Minor Goes A Muggin' - aSO

New York, May 14, 1945.  
 Victor 45-002

**DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA:** as May 12, Joya Sherrill-Kay Davis-Marie Ellington (as "Marie")-v added.

D5VB-265-1 In A Sentimental Mood  
 D5VB-266-1 It Don't Mean A Thing v-ME-KD-JS  
 D5VB-267-1 Sophisticated Lady

same date.  
 Victor 20-3291  
 Victor 27-0054  
 Victor 27-0056

**TOMMY DORSEY WITH DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA:** as May 12, Tommy Dorsey-tb added.

D5VB-268-1 Tonight I Shall Sleep

New York, May 15, 1945.  
 Victor 45-002

**TOMMY DORSEY WITH THE DUKE ELLINGTON ORCHESTRA:** as May 12, Joya Sherrill-Kay Davis-Marie Ellington-Al Hibbler-v added.

D5VB-269-1 I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart - vJS  
 D5VB-270-1 Solitude - vJS-ME-KD-AH

same date.  
 Victor 45-002  
 Victor 27-0056

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Marie Ellington, Joya Sherrill, Kay Davis



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# DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1945

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DK 003

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**disc**  
DIGITAL AUDIO  
A.A.D.



- |   |                                 |                       |      |    |                                 |                       |      |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| 1 | Frantic Fantasy                 | (VP-1315) 04-21-45    | 4:42 | 9  | Caravan                         | (D5VB-262-1) 05-11-45 | 2:45 |
| 2 | It Don't Mean A Thing           | (VP-1316) 04-21-45    | 4:27 | 10 | Black And Tan Fantasy           | (D5VB-263-1) 05-11-45 | 2:48 |
| 3 | Black, Brown And Beige - Part 1 | (JDB-109) 04-21-45    | 6:42 | 11 | Mood Indigo                     | (D5VB-264-1) 05-11-45 | 2:44 |
|   | a/ Blues                        |                       |      | 12 | Harlem Airshaft                 | (VP-1351) 05-12-45    | 3:59 |
| 4 | Black, Brown And Beige - Part 2 | (JDB-89) 04-21-45     | 6:28 | 13 | The Minor Goes A Muggin'        | (D5VB-758-1) 05-14-45 | 2:58 |
|   | b/ West Indian Dance            |                       |      | 14 | In A Sentimental Mood           | (D5VB-265-1) 05-14-45 | 2:58 |
|   | c/ Emancipation Celebration     |                       |      | 15 | It Don't Mean A Thing           | (D5VB-266-1) 05-14-45 | 2:59 |
|   | d/ Sugar Hill Penthouse         |                       |      | 16 | Sophisticated Lady              | (D5VB-267-1) 05-14-45 | 2:39 |
| 5 | The Kissing Bug                 | (D5VB-232-1) 04-26-45 | 3:00 | 17 | Tonight I Shall Sleep           | (D5VB-268-1) 05-14-45 | 2:56 |
| 6 | Everything But You              | (D5VB-233-1) 05-01-45 | 2:50 | 18 | I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart |                       |      |
| 7 | Riff Staccato                   | (D5VB-234-1) 05-01-45 | 3:03 |    |                                 | (D5VB-269-1) 05-15-45 | 3:02 |
| 8 | Prelude To A Kiss               | (D5VB-261-1) 05-10-45 | 3:00 | 19 | Solitude                        | (D5VB-270-1) 05-15-45 | 3:02 |

13 DUKE ELLINGTON WITH TOMMY DORSEY AND HIS ORCH. 17 TOMMY DORSEY WITH DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS FAMOUS ORCH. 2 RAY NANCE, TAFT JORDAN VOCAL. 3 MARIE ELLINGTON VOCAL. 5, 6, 18 JOYA SHERRILL VOCAL. 7 RAY NANCE VOCAL. 11 KAY DAVIS VOCAL. 15 MARIE, KAY DAVIS, JOYA SHERRILL VOCAL. 19 ME, KD, JS, AL HIBBLER 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, 851, 867 & 881.

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