



DUKE ELLINGTON 1953

1	KINDA DUKISH (Ellington) (20246-9)	12-03-53	2:31
2	MONTEVIDEO (Ellington) (20247-11)	12-03-53	2:33
3	DECEMBER BLUE (Ellington) (20248-6)	12-03-53	2:42
4	I'M JUST A LUCKY SO AND SO (Ellington-David) (20249-2)	12-03-53	3:01
5	IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A DREAM (Ellington-Hodges-George) (20250-7)	12-03-53	3:14
6	WHAT MORE CAN I SAY? (Ellington) (20263-7)	12-05-53	2:40
7	ROCKIN' IN RHYTHM (Ellington-Carney) (20264-2)	12-05-53	4:00
8	ULTRA DELUXE (Ellington) (20265-1)	12-05-53	2:53
9	FLYING HOME (Hampton-Goodman) (20266-3)	12-05-53	6:15
10	CHILE BOWL (Ellington) (20275-7)	12-15-53	2:41
11	BLUE MOON (Rodgers-Hart) (20276-6)	12-15-53	2:46
12	OH WELL (Henderson) (20277-1)	12-15-53	3:32
13	JUST A-SITTIN' AND A-ROCKIN' (Ellington-Strayhorn-Gaines) (20278-2)	12-15-53	2:43

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14	ULTRA DELUXE (Ellington) (20287-5)	12-21-53	2:47
15	FLYING HOME (Hampton-Goodman) (20288-5)	12-21-53	6:09
16	WHAT MORE CAN I SAY ? (Ellington) (20289-8)	12-21-53	2:25
17	SERIOUS SERENADE (Ellington) (20290-6)	12-21-53	2:59
18	JUST A-SITTIN' AND A-ROCKIN' (Ellington-Strayhorn-Gaines) (20291-5)	12-21-53	3:52
19	HONEYSUCKLE ROSE (Waller-Razaf) (20292-7)	12-21-53	4:18
20	NIGHT TIME (Ellington-Strayhorn) (12247-10)	12-28-53	2:15
21	STOMPIN' AT THE SAVOY (Sampson-Goodman) (12248-6)	12-28-53	5:05

Special thanks to Léon Dierckx.

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DUKE ELLINGTON 1953

Unlike the tracks that were conceived as part of an LP, the single-issues of Duke Ellington's Capitol material include several items that are quite untypical. On the one hand, Capitol tried to score a juke box hit by giving the band pop material it would possibly not have recorded if given the choice. On the other hand, these singles also led to some quite daring experiments!

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, Holland 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.

Volume 45 of the recordings of Duke Ellington in chronological order includes material that was made within less than a month. It is not quite clear why all of a sudden Ellington and his band were able to record so frequently but it is a highly welcome coincidence. The opening "Kinda Dukish" by the leader plus rhythm proves an excellent burst with Ellington in pristine form. The big band tracks made in early December '53 remained unissued for many decades. There is nothing wrong here and one can only speculate that Capitol saw little chance of selling this kind music on a contemporary market that preferred almost anything else to jazz big bands. However, "Blue Moon" with Jimmy Grissom's sentimental vocal was issued as a single. Just before Christmas, the full band made a rather varied session that included a fine "Ultra Deluxe" with solos by Harry Carney, Ray Nance, Jimmy Hamilton and Paul Gonsalves. "Flying Home" and "Stompin' at the Savoy" sound better when played by Lionel Hampton and Chick Webb respectively yet Capitol had Duke Ellington record several more hits from fellow band leaders in early 1953. These tracks were originally issued on a concept LP but are issued on Classics in the sequence they were made. Several other record companies also recorded similar material at the time in the light of the fact that many music fans had dumped their beat-up 78s in the early fifties and wanted to hear again the melodies they knew - but now recorded in Hi Fi on LP! To be continued...

Anatol Schenker, March 2007

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DISCOGRAPHY DUKE ELLINGTON 1953

DUKE ELLINGTON: Duke Ellington-p/Wendell Marshall-b/Dave Black-d/Ralph Collier-cga*/Jimmy Grissom-v.

New York, December 3, 1953

20246-9	Kinda Dukish	Capitol T637 (LP)
20247-11	*Montevideo	Capitol T637 (LP)
20248-6	December Blue	Capitol B2-92863 (CD)
20249-2	I'm Just A Lucky So And So -vJG	Capitol rejected
20250-7	It Shouldn't Happen To A Dream -vJG	Capitol rejected

Note: "Montevideo" was erroneously issued as "Night Time" on all issues preceding the CD format.

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Clark Terry-Cat Anderson-Willie Cook-t/Ray Nance-t-vln/Quentin Jackson-Britt Woodman-George Jean-tb/Russell Procope-as-cl/Rick Henderson-as/Paul Gonsalves-ts/Jimmy Hamilton-cl-ts/Harry Carney-bar-b-cl/Duke Ellington or Billy Strayhorn*-p/Wendell Marshall-b/Dave Black-d/Jimmy Grissom-v.

New York, December 5, 1953

20263-7	What More Can I Say ? -vJG	Up-To-Date UTD 2007 (LP)
20264-2	Rockin' In Rhythm	Up-To-Date UTD 2007 (LP)
20265-1	*Ultra Deluxe	Up-To-Date UTD 2007 (LP)
20266-3	Flying Home	Up-To-Date UTD 2007 (LP)

DUKE ELLINGTON: Ray Nance-vln*-v/Duke Ellington-p/Wendell Marshall-b/Dave Black-d/Jimmy Grissom-v.

New York, December 15, 1953

20275-7	*Chile Bowl	Capitol rejected
20276-6	*Blue Moon -vJG	Capitol 2723
20277-1	Oh Well -vJG	Capitol rejected
20278-2	Just A-Sittin' And A-Rockin' -vRN	Pickwick SPC3390 (LP)

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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Clark Terry-Cat Anderson-Willie Cook-t/Ray Nance-t-vln-v/Quentin Jackson-Britt Woodman-Alfred Cobbs-tb/Russell Procope-as-cl/Rick Henderson-as/Paul Gonsalves-ts/Jimmy Hamilton-cl-ts/Harry Carney-bar-b cl/Duke Ellington or Billy Strayhorn*-p/Wendell Marshall-b/Dave Black-d/Jimmy Grissom-v.

New York, December 21, 1953

20287-5	*Ultra Deluxe	Capitol 2723
20288-5	Flying Home	Capitol T521 (LP)
20289-8	What More Can I Say ? vJG	Pickwick SPC3390 (LP)
20290-6	Serious Serenade	Up-To-Date UTD 2007 (LP)
20291-5	Just A Settin' And A-Rockin' -vRN	Up-To-Date UTD 2008 (LP)
20292-7	Honeysuckle Rose	Capitol T521 (LP)

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Clark Terry-Cat Anderson-Willie Cook-t/Ray Nance-t-vln/Quentin Jackson-Britt Woodman-George Jean-tb/Russell Procope-as-cl/Rick Henderson-as/Paul Gonsalves-ts/Jimmy Hamilton-cl-ts/Harry Carney-bar-b cl/Duke Ellington-p/Wendell Marshall-b/Dave Black-d/Jimmy Grissom-v.

Chicago, December 28, 1953

12247-10	Night Time	Capitol rejected
12248-6	Stompin' At The Savoy	Capitol T521 (LP)

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With Norman Granz.

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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1953 Vol.2



1 4 3 2

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|----------------------------------|------------|----------|------|---------------------------------|------------|----------|------|
| 1 Kinda Dukish | (20246-9) | 12-03-53 | 2:31 | 11 Blue Moon | (20276-6) | 12-15-53 | 2:46 |
| 2 Montevideo | (20247-11) | 12-03-53 | 2:33 | 12 Oh Well | (20277-1) | 12-15-53 | 3:32 |
| 3 December Blue | (20248-6) | 12-03-53 | 2:42 | 13 Just A-Sittin' And A-Rockin' | (20278-2) | 12-15-53 | 2:43 |
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| 8 Ultra Deluxe | (20265-1) | 12-05-53 | 2:53 | 18 Just A-Sittin' And A-Rockin' | (20291-5) | 12-21-53 | 3:52 |
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| | | | | 21 Stompin' At The Savoy | (12248-6) | 12-28-53 | 5:05 |

4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 16 JIMMY GRISSOM VOCAL. 13, 18 RAY NANCE 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, 915, 951, 985, 1015, 1051, 1086, 1119, 1191, 1217, 1258, 1282, 1320, 1350 & 1398.

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