



DUKE ELLINGTON 1953

1	FLAMINGO (Gouya-Anderson) <i>(11406-9)</i>	04-09-53	3:41
2	BLUEJEAN BEGUINE (Anderson-Ellington) <i>(11407-8)</i>	04-09-53	2:41
3	LIZA (Gershwin-Gershwin-Kahn) <i>(11408-10)</i>	04-09-53	3:12
4	WHO KNOWS (Ellington) <i>(11431-6)</i>	04-13-53	2:35
5	RETROSPECTION (Ellington) <i>(11432-1)</i>	04-13-53	3:56
6	B SHARP BLUES (Ellington) <i>(11433-4)</i>	04-13-53	2:45
7	PASSION FLOWER (Strayhorn) <i>(11434-3)</i>	04-13-53	3:06
8	DANCERS IN LOVE (Ellington) <i>(11435-2)</i>	04-13-53	1:54
9	REFLECTIONS IN D (Ellington) <i>(11436-1)</i>	04-13-53	3:34
10	MELANCHOLIA (Ellington) <i>(11437-4)</i>	04-13-53	3:19
11	PRELUDE TO A KISS (Ellington-Gordon-Mills) <i>(11438-2)</i>	04-13-53	3:02
12	IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD (Ellington) <i>(11439-2)</i>	04-14-53	2:30
13	THINGS AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE (Ellington) <i>(11440-5)</i>	04-14-53	2:55

CLASSICS 1398

14	ALL TOO SOON (Ellington-Sigman) <i>(11441-3)</i>	04-14-53	3:07
15	JANET (Ellington) <i>(11442-2)</i>	04-14-53	2:12
16	GIVE ME THE RIGHT (Mellin-Frisch) <i>(11620-4)</i>	06-30-53	2:45
17	IS IT A SIN ? (Leopold-Carus-Bryan) <i>(11621-5)</i>	06-30-53	2:54
18	DON'T TOUCH ME (Noble) <i>(11622-6)</i>	06-30-53	2:01
19	BASIN STREET BLUES (Williams) <i>(11623-4)</i>	06-30-53	5:51
20	BIG DRAG (Ellington) <i>(11624-8)</i>	07-01-53	2:50
21	HEAR MY PLEA (Stept-Brewster) <i>(11625-10)</i>	07-01-53	2:54
22	DON'T EVER SAY GOODBYE (Ellington) <i>(11626-3)</i>	07-01-53	3:00
23	WHAT MORE CAN I SAY ? (Ellington) <i>(11627-1)</i>	07-01-53	3:07

Special thanks to Léon Dierckx.

CLASSICS 1398

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 1312 : LOUISIANA RHYTHM KINGS 1929-30
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 1314 : CHARLIE PARKER 1951-52
 1315 : DON BYAS 1951-52
 1316 : MILDRED BAILEY 1943-45
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 1333 : HELEN HUMES 1948-50
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 1335 : BENNY GOODMAN 1942-44
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- 1337 : MILDRED BAILEY 1945-47
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 1339 : BILL COLEMAN 1951-52
 1340 : COLEMAN HAWKINS 1950-53
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 1342 : HOT LIPS PAGE 1950-53
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 1346 : MARY LOU WILLIAMS 1951-53
 1347 : DIZZY GILLESPIE 1952-53
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 1349 : WILLIE "THE LION" SMITH 1950
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 1352 : LOUIS ARMSTRONG 1952-53
 1353 : JOE SULLIVAN 1945-53
 1354 : EDDIE CONDON 1951-53
 1355 : BENNY GOODMAN 1945
 1356 : RED NORVO 1944-45
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 1381 : BILL COLEMAN 1952-53
 1382 : EDDIE "LOCKJAW" DAVIS 1948-53
 1383 : BILLY TAYLOR 1952-53
 1384 : SIDNEY BECHET 1952
 1385 : BENNY GOODMAN 1946-47
 1386 : RED NORVO 1945-47
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 1388 : JAMES MOODY 1951
 1389 : JOHNNY HODGES 1951-52
 1390 : GENE KRUPA 1952-53
 1391 : ERROLL GARNER 1953
 1392 : WILLIE "THE LION" SMITH 1950-53
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CLASSICS 1398

DUKE ELLINGTON 1953

Throughout 1953, Duke Ellington had an exclusive contract with Capitol. However, it seems the company was both in doubt about how to promote its star appropriately and also what to issue. Despite playing several successful concerts on the West Coast and recording for Capitol regularly, Ellington's career seemed at a temporary dead-end. Even though most recordings contained on this CD never made it big they stood the test of time! 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 44 of the recordings of Duke Ellington presented in chronological order opens with three that were made on April 9 1953 - despite the odd matrix numbers. Most of the following duo/trio performances were first issued on an LP aptly entitled "The Duke Plays Ellington". On April 13 the focus is on new and more recent compositions. "Dancers In Love" from the 1944 "Perfume Suite" is one of Ellington's important longer compositions but has often been unduly overlooked. The day after recording this first session, Ellington completed the album with several items dating back to the thirties. The mood is most intimate on the three tracks without drummer Butch Pollard. Ellington and his band then continued touring up and down the West Coast before playing a residency at the Blue Note club in Chicago. Thus the recording featured on this CD was made on two subsequent days in the Windy City. Jimmy Grissom's vocals, while adequate, are not surprising. Two tracks cut that day as well as on July 1 1953 remained unissued, probably because Capitol had enough material in stock that they thought would sell better. "The Big Drag" features solos by Jimmy Hamilton (clarinet), Paul Gonsalves (tenor), Willie Cook and Cat Anderson on trumpet. All in all, although Duke Ellington's piano solos are impressive, it cannot be denied that 1953 was one of the most difficult years for the band from an artistic and commercial point of view. To be continued...

Anatol Schenker, August 2005

CLASSICS 1398

DISCOGRAPHY DUKE ELLINGTON 1953

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

Los Angeles, April 9, 1953

11406-9	Flamingo	Capitol H440 (LP)
11407-8	Bluejean Beguine	Capitol 2546
11408-10	Liza	Capitol H440 (LP)

DUKE ELLINGTON: Duke Ellington-p/Wendell Marshall-b/Butch Ballard-d.

Los Angeles, April 13, 1953

11431-6	Who Knows	Capitol H477 (LP)
11432-1	Retrospection -d omitted	Capitol T477 (LP)
11433-4	B Sharp Blues	Capitol H477 (LP)
11434-3	Passion Flower	Capitol H477 (LP)
11435-2	Dancers In Love	Capitol T477 (LP)
11436-1	Reflections In D -d omitted	Capitol H477 (LP)
11437-4	Melancholia -d omitted	Capitol T477 (LP)
11438-2	Prelude To A Kiss	Capitol H477 (LP)

DUKE ELLINGTON: same.

Los Angeles, April 14, 1953

11439-2	In A Sentimental Mood	Capitol H477 (LP)
11440-5	Things Ain't What They Used To Be	Capitol H477 (LP)
11441-3	All Too Soon	Capitol T477 (LP)
11442-2	Janet	Capitol H477 (LP)

CLASSICS 1398

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Clark Terry-Cat Anderson-Willie Cook-t/Ray Nance-t/Quentin Jackson-Britt Woodman-Juan Tizol-tb/Russell Procope-as-cl/Rick Henderson-as/Paul Gonsalves-ts/Jimmy Hamilton-cl-ts/Harry Carney-bari-b-cl/Duke Ellington-p/Wendell Marshall-b/Butch Ballard-d/Jimmy Grissom-vl.

Chicago, June 30, 1953

11620-4	Give Me The Right -vJG	Capitol 2598
11621-5	Is It A Sin? (My Loving You) -vJG	Capitol 2875
11622-6	Don't Touch Me -vJG	Capitol rejected

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Clark Terry-t/Ray Nance-t-v/Quentin Jackson-tb/Russell Procope-as-cl/Duke Ellington-p/Wendell Marshall-b/Butch Ballard-d.

same date

11623-4	Basin Street Blues -vRN	Capitol rejected
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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA: same.

Chicago, July 1, 1953

11624-8	Big Drag	Capitol T679 (LP)
11625-10	Hear My Plea -vJG	Capitol rejected
11626-3	Don't Ever Say Goodbye	Capitol rejected
11627-1	What More Can I Say? -vJG	Capitol rejected

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DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA 1953

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
A.A.D.



1	Flamingo	(11406-9)	04-09-53	3:41	13	Things Ain't What They Used To Be	(11440-5)	04-14-53	2:55
2	Bluejean Beguine	(11407-8)	04-09-53	2:41					
3	Liza	(11408-10)	04-09-53	3:12	14	All Too Soon	(11441-3)	04-14-53	3:07
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4 TO 15 PIANO SOLOS. 16, 17, 18, 21, 23 JIMMY GRISSOM VOCAL. 19 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.

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