



THE COMPLETE
ELLINGTON INDIGOS

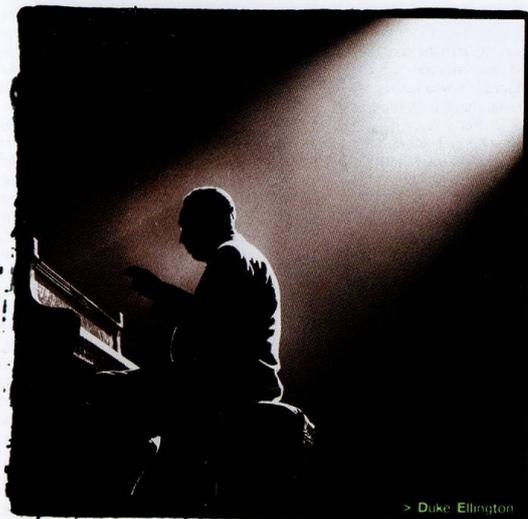
Duke Ellington and His Orchestra SOLITUDE · WHERE OR WHEN · MOOD INDIGO · AUTUMN LEAVES
THE SKY FELL DOWN · PRELUDE TO A KISS · WILLOW WEEP FOR ME · TENDERLY · DANCING IN THE DARK



As the original liner notes for the *Indigos* album clearly states, the Ellington orchestra not only performed in concert halls – presenting extended suites to be listened to from the comfort of a plush theatre seat – it was also a legendary dance band, accustomed to playing very personal versions of the most celebrated standards as well as the numerous compositions by its leader. It must be said, however, that the prolific Ellington book well outnumbered the renditions of tunes from Tin-Pan-Alley. Therefore, Duke and his long-time partner Billy Strayhorn's treatment of well known songs like "Willow Weep for Me", "Tenderly" and "Dancing in the Dark", always makes for an exciting listening experience. The version of "Dancing in the Dark" included on *Indigos* is the band's only studio recording of the standard, and one of only six versions of the tune in the Duke's entire discography (the other five consist of live versions captured from broadcasts). Likewise, the two takes of "Willow Weep for Me" are two of only four versions of that tune (again the other two are live versions) in the band's discography. The same can be said of the two takes of "Where or When" (two out of six versions, the other four were recorded live) and "Autumn Leaves" (two out of seven versions, the other five were recorded live).

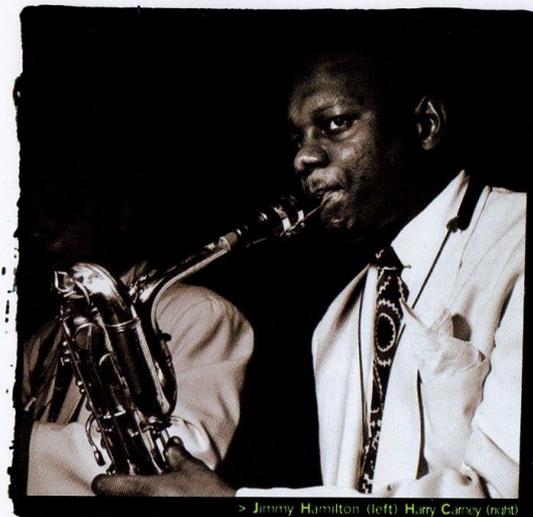
The "dancing mood" of the album should not prevent us from attentively listening to these exceptional recordings. After all, this is the Ellington orchestra and all the arrangements are full of new twists and innovative voices and improvisations.

The original album *Indigos* was cut from the material recorded on four sessions from September 9 to October 14, 1957, with the exception of one single Ellington novelty, "The Sky Fell Down", which was recorded on March 13 of that same year. Presented on both Stereo and Mono LPs, *Indigos* was reissued numerous times after its original release, with some of these reissues adding a couple of tunes from the sessions to the original program (a trio version of "All the Things You Are" and



an arrangement of Cole Porter's "Night and Day"). Most of the reissues, however, omitted "The Sky Fell Down", and in many case included some alternate takes or different versions from the same sessions in place of the originally chosen ones. In the case of "Autumn Leaves", for instance, a CD version presented the same take issued on the LP (which for timing reasons had been shortened) in its complete form, but listed it incorrectly as an alternate take. To add to the confusion, a true alternate of "Autumn Leaves" existed and appeared on a compilation album but was never issued on the original album. The current release attempts to remedy all of the previous errors. Tracks 1 to 11 present the original album with the addition of the two tunes "All the Things You Are" and "Night and Day", which despite having been absent from the first LPs, were included on subsequent pressings. Following that, this edition features all alternate versions from the sessions that produced the *Indigos* album, plus the tunes "Commercial Time" and "Love (My Heart, My Mind, My Everything)", recorded during the sessions that produced this album but never included on the original LP or in further pressings. Two other tunes were recorded during the session from which the isolated track "The Sky Fell Down" was taken: "Cop-Out" & "Rock City Rock", recorded on March 13, 1957. Ellington's common practice was employing his recording sessions to tape tunes intended for different projects. Although he later selected "The Sky Fell Down" for its inclusion on *Indigos*, the other two tunes from this session were clearly not conceived for this album, and thus none is included here. Anyway, there wasn't enough room for them on this already crowded CD!! Although the main melody is different, the bridge of "Love (My Heart, My Mind, My Everything)" is clearly similar to that of "Solitude". Curiously, both tunes were recorded the same day! Our CD, thus, opens and closes with two melodically related tunes.

Bernard Lee (2008)





> Duke Ellington



> Ray Nance

Original liner notes:

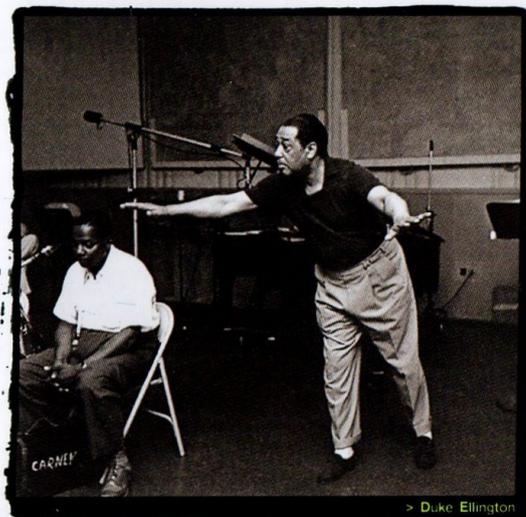
The Ellington orchestra, the oldest and greatest jazz organization in the world, is also a dance band. Its forty weeks of one nighters each year includes every major college and university in America, two generations of student dancers Duke counts among his greatest fans. It is to all of these audiences who love to dance and listen to the familiar standards played with the personality of the Ellington band that this album is dedicated.

Solitude –“The piano player”, as Duke calls himself, is the soloist on a wonderful Ellington standard requested wherever he plays. And like most of his dance sets, this one begins with Duke alone at the piano. The cue for the band is the strong beat of the second chorus. The rhythm, the Carney-led sax section, the brass join in.

Where or When –The Rodgers and Hart favourite features Paul Gonsalves, the man who once broke up a jazz festival plays the melody now, not without that vaporous tone that is a mark of his style.

Mood Indigo –Duke and Billy Strayhorn have a habit of rearranging most of the standards Duke has written. This year "Mood Indigo" is a solo for the muted trumpet of Shorty Baker, instead of the traditional trombones and bass clarinet, because, as Duke points out, "Shorty loves to play it."

Autumn Leaves –Ray Nance, the string section of the Ellington orchestra, plays a violin improvisation on another fine standard. Ozzie Bailey, who made his Ellington debut with Duke's *A Drum Is a Woman*, sings a soaring second chorus.



> Duke Ellington

The Sky Fell Down –Duke never misses a chance to introduce the newest song he's written, usually as here, in the middle of a set of familiar hits. His "The Sky Fell Down" fits the mood and so begins its life as another Ellington favourite. It features Ray Nance, this time on trumpet.

Prelude to a Kiss –This solo has always belonged to Johnny Hodges, who plays the two-chorus arrangement as one beautiful example of what Duke sometimes calls "excruciating ecstasy".

Willow Weep for Me –A standard not associated with Ellington's band (again, it's one Shorty Baker loves to play) features Duke and Shorty, Hodges, and Shorty again in a moving final solo.

Tenderly –By now it is apparent that this Ellington album is yet another opportunity to present the individual stars in the band of whom Duke is so justly proud. This time clarinetist Jimmy Hamilton solos all the way on Walter Gross' great song.

Dancing in the Dark –Finally, another dancers' favourite features Harry Carney's baritone sax and Ray Nance, again on trumpet. And Duke's dance album ends. But until the next time Duke's silver band bus rolls up to the dance you're attending, this group of recordings will keep you warm.

Irving Townsend (1957)



> Johnny Hodges

- 01 SOLITUDE (De Lange-Mills-Ellington) 4:43
- 02 WHERE OR WHEN (Rodgers-Hart) 4:02
- 03 MOOD INDIGO (Bigard-Mills-Ellington) 3:07
- 04 NIGHT AND DAY (Cole Porter) 2:54
- 05 PRELUDE TO A KISS (Gordon-Mills-Ellington) 4:44
- 06 ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE (Kern-Hammerstein II) 3:50
- 07 WILLOW WEEP FOR ME (Ann Ronell) 4:15
- 08 TENDERLY (Lawrence-Gross) 5:23
- 09 DANCING IN THE DARK (Dietz-Schwartz) 4:28
- 10 AUTUMN LEAVES (Mercer-Prevert-Kosma) 7:12
- 11 THE SKY FELL DOWN (Duke Ellington) 2:57
- 12 COMMERCIAL TIME (Duke Ellington) 3:22
- 13 MOOD INDIGO (Bigard-Mills-Ellington) 4:04 ♦
- 14 MOOD INDIGO (Bigard-Mills-Ellington) 3:05 ♦♦
- 15 AUTUMN LEAVES (Mercer-Prevert-Kosma) 6:14 ♦
- 16 WILLOW WEEP FOR ME (Ann Ronell) 3:55 ♦
- 17 WHERE OR WHEN (Rodgers-Hart) 3:57 ♦
- 18 ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE (Kern-Hammerstein II) 4:00 ♦
- 19 LOVE [MY HEART, MY MIND, MY EVERYTHING] (Duke Ellington) 2:30

TOTAL TIME: 78:53

♦ Alternate version 1

♦♦ Alternate version 2

DUKE ELLINGTON and His Orchestra. Tracks 3, 8, 12 & 13-15: Clark Terry, Willie Cook, Cat Anderson, Harold "Shorty" Baker (tp), Ray Nance (tp, vln, vcl), Quentin Jackson, John Sanders (tb), Jimmy Hamilton (cl, ts), Russell Procope (as, cl), Johnny Hodges, Rick Henderson (as), Paul Gonsalves (ts), Harry Carney (bar, cl, b-cl), Duke Ellington (p), Jimmy Woode (b), Sam Woodyard (d), Ozzie Bailey (vcl on 15 only). **New York, September 9, 1957. Tracks 5, 9 & 10:** Same personnel except Rick Henderson out and Britt Woodman (tb) added. Ozzie Bailey (vc on 10 only). **New York, October 1, 1957. Tracks 2, 4, 6-7 & 16-18:** Same personnel as before except Ozzie Bailey out. **New York, October 10, 1957. Track 1 & 19:** Same personnel as before. Jimmy Grissom (vc on 19). **New York, October 14, 1957. Track 11:** Clark Terry, Willie Cook, Cat Anderson (tp), Ray Nance (tp, vln, vcl), Quentin Jackson, Britt Woodman, John Sanders (tb), Jimmy Hamilton (cl, ts), Russell Procope (as, cl), Johnny Hodges (as), Paul Gonsalves (ts), Harry Carney (bar, cl, b-cl), Duke Ellington (p), Jimmy Woode (b), Sam Woodyard (d), Jimmy Grissom (vcl). **New York, March 13, 1957.**

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★★★★1/2 **DOWN BEAT (1957)** "Ellington Indigos is virtually a dance set. Duke mixes some of his tunes with some standards by other composers and plays them with emphasis on shades of colour. He has 'Solitude' pretty much of himself; Gonsalves' breathy tenor has a showpiece on 'Where or When'; then Baker (muted) takes over 'Mood Indigo', and this shouldn't be missed." **Dom Cerulli.**

Duke Ellington and His Orchestra

Clark Terry, Willie Cook, Cat Anderson, Harold "Shorty" Baker (tp), Ray Nance (tp, vln, vcl), Quentin Jackson, John Sanders, Britt Woodman (tb), Jimmy Hamilton (cl, ts), Russell Procope (as, cl), Johnny Hodges, Rick Henderson (as), Paul Gonsalves (ts), Harry Carney (bar, cl, b-cl), Duke Ellington (p), Jimmy Woode (b), Sam Woodyard (d), Jimmy Grissom (vcl on 11 & 19 only), Ozzie Bailey (vcl on 10 & 15 only).

Recorded in New York, March 13, September 9 & October 1-14, 1957.

01 SOLITUDE 4:43 02 WHERE OR WHEN 4:02 03 MOOD INDIGO 3:07 04 NIGHT AND DAY 2:54 05 PRELUDE TO A KISS 4:44
06 ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE 3:50 07 WILLOW WEEP FOR ME 4:15 08 TENDERLY 5:23 09 DANCING IN THE DARK 4:28
10 AUTUMN LEAVES 7:12 11 THE SKY FELL DOWN 2:57 12 COMMERCIAL TIME 3:22 13 MOOD INDIGO 4:04 14 MOOD INDIGO 3:05
15 AUTUMN LEAVES 6:14 16 WILLOW WEEP FOR ME 3:55 17 WHERE OR WHEN 3:57 18 ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE 4:00
19 LOVE (MY HEART, MY MIND, MY EVERYTHING) 2:30 **TOTAL TIME: 78:53**

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for complete information.

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