

DUKE ELLINGTON COPENHAGEN 1964

STORYVILLE





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This is a gem, musically, Duke-wise and probably the best restored, remastered live concert by the band in the 1960s ... well, The Paris Concert comes close.

We were four friends in our twenties, fans, tickets secured months ahead ... and here we were on the 8th row, falling in love again with the man, his music etc ... A-Train!

The hour and ten minutes on this CD brings it all back, the enthusiasm, the band's virility – listen to the musicians' happy comments after some numbers. How is it possible to keep spirits up after all these years? The Orchestra had every night and day booked up for the whole of March from the UK across Europe, including five nights in Scandinavia – no days off. Routine. But Europe was always a favorite playground.

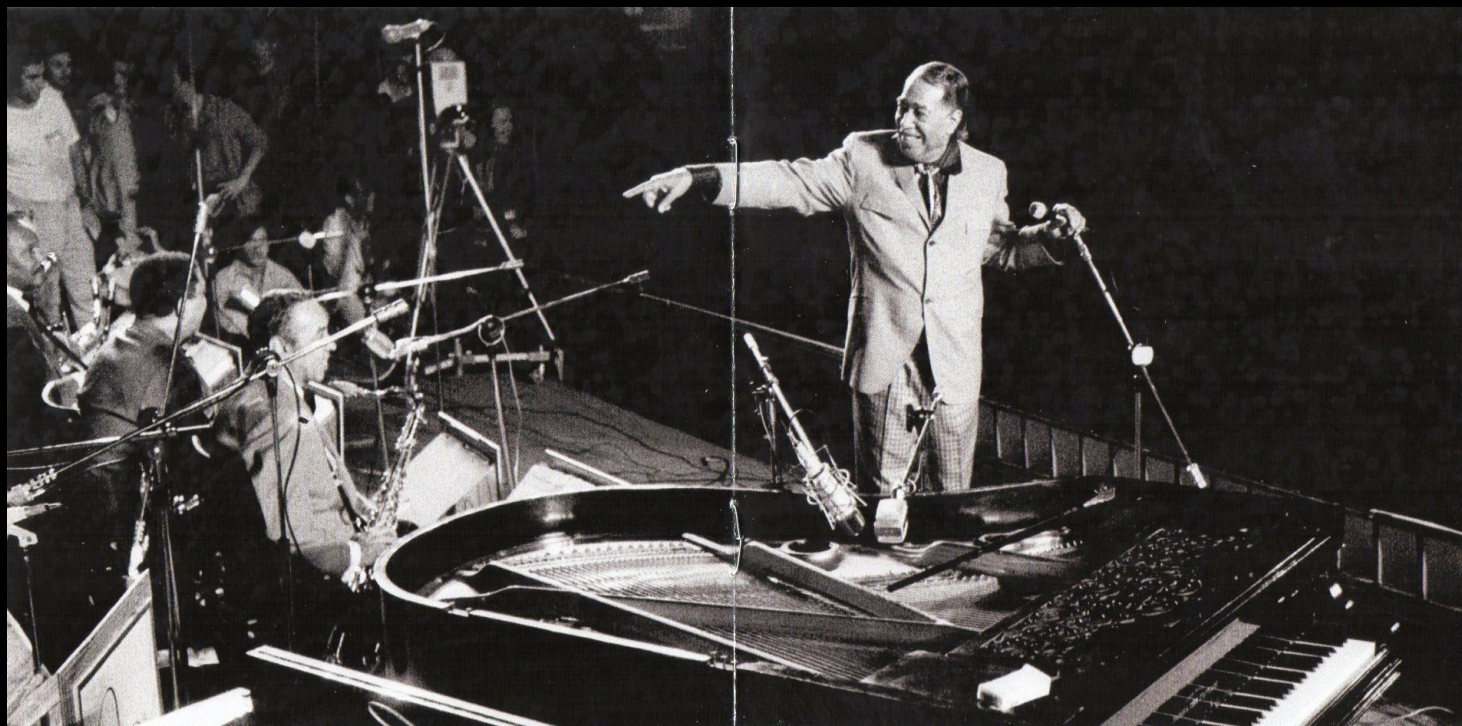
On March 13 we are in the festive concert hall at the Tivoli Gardens, and the master is in full form, ready

to let his charm and genius be spread over us, oh yes: Harry Carney far right, Woodyard ready to jump, Cootie W. looking grumpy, Hodges looking for exit signs, Lawrence Brown fighting the plunger, and it all comes together. The Harlem Suite ... from 1950. Ellington inform us about the 'picture' – and it is a live mural.

This is the best from two concerts, some of the old warhorses are left out except for the three classics in superb form at the beginning – but there is Far East, Timon of Athens and Skillipoop. The piano player's Steinway never sounded better, and the details in Woodyard's understatements we haven't heard before. My Heart, what more do you want?

Thanks to Ole Matthiessen for the meticulous restoring work and Storyville for this gem.

Henrik Wolsgaard-Iversen



I attended all Ellington concerts in Copenhagen in the 1960's except this one in 1964, and later I had the privilege as a young, at that time not that experienced, radio producer to record the concert in 1971 when Ben Webster was sitting in with the band. But together with an old friend, the drummer Jørn Elniff, I later listened numerous times to the radio broadcast with some of the music here, all excerpts from the second concert. Some are intense versions of old warhorses, but Ellington also presented brand new material inspired by a State Department Tour to the Far East a few months before. And it took two more years before Ellington himself recorded the music. Here are five pieces from the Impressions of the Far East Suite played live by an Ellington band, that in my opinion was his best since the 1940's version.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Duke for so many profound musical experiences. As a veteran big band producer through 37 years, recording many of the greatest jazz orchestras, it has been fantastic to have the multifaceted exotic color palette of Ellington and Strayhorn under the magnifying glass preparing the music from this inspired concert.

Ole Matthiessen



DUKE ELLINGTON COPENHAGEN 1964

DUKE ELLINGTON'S ORCHESTRA / EXCERPT FROM 2ND CONCERT – TIVOLI CONCERT HALL, MARCH 13, 1964

Cat Anderson, Coctie Williams, Herbie Jones, Roffe Ericson (tp), Lawrence Brown, Buster Cooper, Chuck Connors (tb), Johnny Hodges, Russell Procope, Paul Gonsalves, Jimmy Hamilton, Harry Carney (sax), Duke Ellington (p), Ernie Shephard (b), Sam Woodyard (dr)

- 1 **TAKE THE A TRAIN** (theme) (Billy Strayhorn) **1:29**
- 2 **MEDLEY / BLACK AND TAN FANTASY** (Duke Ellington, B. Milley)
THE MOOCHE (Duke Ellington, I Mills) **CREOLE LOVE CALL** (Duke Ellington) **10:16**
- 3 **HARLEM** (Duke Ellington) **14:58**
- 4 **HAPPY REUNION** (Duke Ellington) **3:50**
EXCERPTS FROM THE IMPRESSIONS OF THE FAR EAST SUITE:
- 5 **AMAD** (Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn) **5:23**
- 6 **AGRA** (Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn) **2:27**
- 7 **BLUE BIRD OF DELHI** (Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn) **3:38**
- 8 **DEPK** (Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn) **3:06**
- 9 **ISFAHAN** (Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn) **4:54**
- 10 **THINGS AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE** (Mercer Ellington) **3:13**
- 11 **BANQUET SCENE FROM TIMON OF ATHENS** (Duke Ellington) **3:08**
- 12 **SKILLIPOOP** (Duke Ellington) **4:17**
- 13 **KINDA DUKISH & ROCKIN' IN RHYTHM** (Duke Ellington, Harry Carney, I Mills) **6:20**
- 14 **JONES** (Duke Ellington, Clark Terry) **2:07**

TOTAL TIME **69:15**

Recording - Børge Roger Henriksen / Research, restoration, editing, premaster - Ole Matthiessen / Mastering - Jørgen Vad and Ole Matthiessen / Notes - Ole Matthiessen and Henrik Wolsgaard-Iversen / Photo - Jan Persson / Design - FinnNygaard.com

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