

THANK YOU **UNCLE EDWARD**

DUKE ELLINGTON LEGACY





During his lifetime, Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington produced what was probably the most voluminous body of music ever.

It is this body of work, this legacy that his namesake, the second grandchild of Uncle Edward, and my "little" brother draws from to create this album. (Ellington thought himself too young to be a grandfather.)

The title of this album contains an important historic observation, for it was Duke Ellington's wont to thank certain countries and people for their kindnesses and invitations to the orchestra and himself, by composing albums dedicated to them.

And so we are left with: *The New Orleans Suite*, *The Latin American Suite*, *The Queen's Suite*, *The Afro-Eurasian Eclipse*, and *Such Sweet Thunder*, to mention a few.

You get the picture.

Now, it is my brother's turn to thank his grandfather for his kindness, for his life and musical lessons, and for providing such an invaluable legacy that cries out for continuance.

From the rough road well traveled with the Ellington band and the "Maestro" himself, Edward Kennedy Ellington II brings justice and authenticity into yet another decade for Ellingtonians and American music fans everywhere to enjoy.

Bravo little brother!

~ Mercedes Ellington ~

Edward Kennedy Ellington II and I began our lifelong friendship when I moved to NYC in 1987. In 2004, Edward decided that he wanted to do something to keep his grandfather's music alive and in the public ear. I was thrilled when he decided to create the Duke Ellington Legacy and asked me to be the bandleader and tenor saxophonist.

Edward attended the Berklee College of Music and toured with his grandfather, Duke Ellington, as a guitar player and roadie. He was also on the road with his father, Mercer Ellington. Edward began studying the guitar again a few years ago, and is having a wonderful time being part of the Legacy rhythm section and telling stories from his time on the road with his grandfather.

We were thrilled when pianist **Norman Simmons** accepted our invitation to join the group. An incredible player, composer and arranger, Norman Simmons has played with many of the Jazz icons, including Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins, Roy Eldridge, Red Rodney and Ira Sullivan, Johnny Griffin and Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Carmen McRae, Joe Williams, Anita O'Day, and Charlie Parker. He had a long-running engagement at Chicago's "Bee Hive" jazz club. Norman is currently the pianist and musical director with Carol Sloane. Norman has written most of the arrangements for the Duke Ellington Legacy, and his experience and insights are invaluable to us. This CD features what may be Norman's recording debut on maracas!

We were also delighted when vocalist **Nancy Reed** joined the Legacy, making this the only Ellington band now in existence that features a vocalist. Nancy has performed and recorded with such jazz greats as Phil Woods, Slide Hampton, David "Fathead" Newman and Boborough and has toured Japan, the United States and Mexico.

Our two special guests for this recording are **Joe Temperley** and **Wycliffe Gordon**. Currently a member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, baritone saxophonist and bass clarinetist extraordinaire **Joe Temperley** earned his reputation as a player for his interpretation of Duke Ellington's music and, more specifically, his evocation of the late Ellington baritone saxophonist Harry Carney. He worked in the big bands of Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Thad Jones-Mel Lewis, and Clark Terry. In 1974 he replaced Carney in Mercer Ellington's Big Band. Since then, he has freelanced with the greats, and you can hear that experience in his beautiful interpretation of the music.

Trombonist **Wycliffe Gordon** is "the man" as far as jazz trombone today. He enjoys an extraordinary career as a performer, conductor, composer, arranger, and educator, receiving high praise from audiences and critics alike. Wycliffe has worked with the Wynton Marsalis Septet, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, and the Gully Low Jazz Band, and he tours regularly leading his own group, headlining at legendary jazz venues throughout the world.

Our trumpet player, **Mark McGowan**, is a freelance musician as well as a lawyer. He served long apprenticeships with both Illinois Jacquet and Lionel Hampton, and has also worked with Panama Francis, Duke Ellington Orchestra (under Paul Ellington), Cab Calloway Orchestra, Harlem Renaissance Orchestra, and the Vanguard Orchestra.

Our drummer, **Paul Wells**, met Norman as a student at Wm. Patterson College, and has since worked with Norman in a number of settings including with Joe Williams. Paul has also worked with Mark Murphy, Houston Person, Dave Valentin, Randy Brecker, Rufus Reid and Joel Frahm.

The youngest member of the Legacy is our bassist, **Tom DiCarlo**. Tom has worked with Dave Schnitter, Ralph Bowen, Dave Berkman, Mark Gross, Frank Lacy, Claudio Roditi, and Larry Ham.

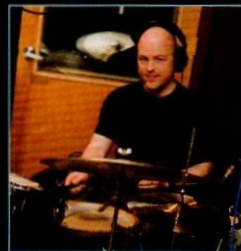
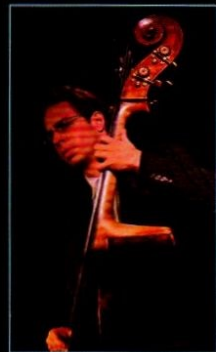
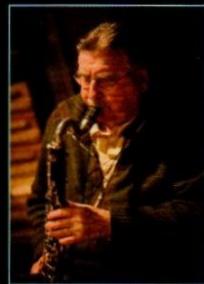
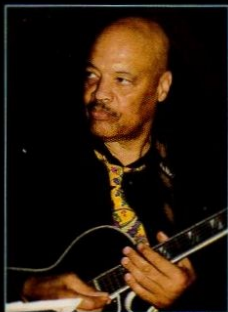
Joining us on conga for 2 tunes is percussionist and drummer **Sheila Earley**. Sheila has played drums with Norman Simmons, Carole Boune, Marlana Shaw, Tom Harrell, Byron Stripling and myself.

Our wonderful engineer, **Randy Crafton**, over-dubbed some bongo on "In A Sentimental Mood".

In addition to my work with the Legacy, I've played many gigs with Norman over the past 20 years (in his band, my band, and other bands). I've worked with Earl "Fatha" Hines, Cab Calloway, Al Grey, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Kenny Barron, Claudio Roditi, and many others, as well as leading my own groups. The Ellington Legacy is one of the thrills of my musical life, and I hope you enjoy the group's music as much as I do!

Virginia Mayhew

Ellington Legacy bandleader, tenor saxophonist, and arranger



TOP: EDWARD ELLINGTON, NORMAN SIMMONS, WYCLIFFE GORDON, JOE TEMPERLEY
MIDDLE: VIRGINIA MAYHEW, NANCY REED, TOM DICARLO, PAUL WELLS
BOTTOM: MARK MCGOWAN, SHEILA EARLEY

PRODUCED BY GAYE BELLINGTON

THESE CREDITS WERE CONSIDERED BY THE COURT
TO BE A FAIR AND BALANCED REPRESENTATION OF THE FACTS

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Recordings

www.dukeellingtonlegacy.com
www.renmarecordings.com

- 1 PERDIDO 6:11 2 PRETTY WOMAN 6:42 3 CARAVAN 5:52
4 MAINSTEM 7:46 5 DAY DREAM 5:30 6 TOE TICKLER 5:48
7 ISFAHAN 5:35 8 COTTONTAIL 4:55 9 MOON MIST 6:24
10 IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD 6:07 11 COME SUNDAY 5:01

PRODUCED BY GAYE ELLINGTON

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 66:17

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6400CD



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| <p>1 PERDIDO 6:11
(Juan Tizol / Mills / Ervin Drake)
Soloists: Nancy Reed, Mark McGowan, Virginia Mayhew, Wycliffe Gordon, Paul Wells.</p> <p>2 PRETTY WOMAN 6:42
(Ellington / Tempo)
Soloists: Edward Kennedy Ellington II, Virginia Mayhew, Norman Simmons, Joe Temperley, Tom DiCarlo</p> <p>3 CARAVAN 5:52
(Juan Tizol/Ellington Mills)
Soloists: Nancy Reed, Wycliffe Gordon, Norman Simmons</p> <p>4 MAINSTEM 7:46
(Ellington / SBK Robbins)
Soloists: Tom DiCarlo, Wycliffe Gordon, Virginia Mayhew, Mark McGowan, Norman Simmons, Paul Wells</p> <p>5 DAY DREAM 5:30
(Ellington / Strayhorn / Tempo)
Soloists: Nancy Reed, Norman Simmons, Virginia Mayhew</p> | <p>6 TOE TICKLER 5:48
(Mayhew / Nini Green Music / BMI)
Soloists: Virginia Mayhew, Wycliffe Gordon, Mark McGowan, Paul Wells</p> <p>7 ISFAHAN 5:35
(Ellington / Tempo)
Soloists: Norman Simmons, Mark McGowan</p> <p>8 COTTONTAIL 4:55
(Ellington / Tempo / Jon Hendricks)
Soloists: Nancy Reed, Wycliffe Gordon, Virginia Mayhew</p> <p>9 MOON MIST 6:24
(Mercer Ellington / Tempo)
Soloists: Edward Kennedy Ellington II, Joe Temperley, Mark McGowan</p> <p>10 IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD 6:07
(Ellington / Mills)
Soloists: Virginia Mayhew, Mark McGowan, Norman Simmons, Wycliffe Gordon</p> <p>11 COME SUNDAY 5:01
(Ellington / Tempo)
Soloists: Nancy Reed, Joe Temperley</p> |
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EDWARD ELLINGTON II
GUITAR

NORMAN SIMMONS
PIANO, CHIEF ARRANGER

VIRGINIA MAYHEW
TENOR SAXOPHONIST, BAND LEADER, ARRANGER

NANCY REED
SINGER

JOE TEMPERLEY
BASS CLARINET AND BARITONE SAXOPHONE

WYCLIFFE GORDON
TROMBONE

MARK MCGOWAN
TRUMPET

TOM DICARLO
BASS

PAUL WELLS
DRUMS

PRODUCED BY GAYE ELLINGTON

All music arranged by Norman Simmons except:

PERDIDO arranged by Virginia Mayhew and Norman Simmons;
TOE TICKLER composed and arranged by Virginia Mayhew; and
IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD arranged by Virginia Mayhew.

www.dukeellingtonlegacy.com

www.renma recordings.com

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