



This year, 1999, marks another important centennial. On April 29, the music world celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth, in Washington, D.C., of Edward Kennedy Ellington. Better known as "The Duke", he was the most important musician of the twentieth century. When he died at the age of 75 on May 24, 1974, he left a legacy of immense and gripping proportions. His compositions, considered by many to be the most important body of music of the century, numbered more than a thousand. Although he was influential as a pianist, he referred to his *orchestra* as his instrument and "Ellingtonia" encompasses music shaped by its members over the years, people such as his son Mercer, Juan Tizol, Barney Bigard, Johnny Hodges and (especially) his musical alter ego, Billy Strayhorn. That legacy began with his "Soda Fountain Rag" and continued through his "sacred concert" music of later years. In between are such diverse works as his 1935 tribute to his mother, (the beautiful "Reminiscing In Tempo"); the first extended work, band pieces like "Koko," "Harlem Air Shaft," "Across The Track Blues," "Main Stem," "Cottontail," and "Rockin' In Rhythm," film scores "Anatomy Of A Murder" and "Paris Blues," "A Drum Is A Woman," a history of jazz written for television; his many suites including

"Harlem," a tone parallel to that section of the island of Manhattan; "Such Sweet Thunder" (inspired by the Bard) and "Suite Thursday" after John Steinbeck; his piano piece, "New World A Comin'"; a ballet, "The River" and "The Golden Broom And The Green Apple" not to mention more familiar pieces that have become standards, like many of those included here.

His influence also lives on in the music of Thelonious Monk, Abdullah Ibrahim, Charles Mingus (represented here by the inclusion of his "Duke's Choice" played by pianist Jon Ballantyne) and Pepper Adams, a man to whom both Rex Stewart and Harry Carney were of great importance. Pepper himself was an influence on the playing of Jean Frechette, heard here on "Sophisticated Lady" with the Montreal-based Denny Christianson Big Band.

Duke had a great love for Canada, and in Toronto in 1967 he recorded music by three Canadian composers as a piano soloist. In fact, this country's Ron Collier and Galt MacDermot worked with Duke on some of his later compositions. The majority of the musicians heard on this centennial tribute are Canadians. They include pianists Oscar Peterson, Oliver Jones, Renee Rosnes and Ballantyne; guitarists Richard Ring,

Peter Leitch and Oliver Gannon; saxophonists Ralph Bowen, Fraser MacPherson and Dave Turner; bassists Dave Young, Steve Wallace and Neil Swainson; drummers John Sumner and Terry Clarke and singer-pianist Diana Krall.

There are also American-born musicians who have spent a good deal of their musical life in Canada, such as singer Raneë Lee, pianist Johnny O'Neal and trumpeter/bandleader Christianson. Among the others heard here are pianists Ronnie Mathews and Hilario Durán, bassists Drew Gress and John Clayton and drummers Jeff Hamilton and Billy Hart.

Duke, we all love you madly! Thanks to all the musicians heard here and again personal thanks to Bill W. Be part of the celebration and enjoy!

- Len Dobbin,
Friend to jazz

1. Take The 'A' Train - Oliver Jones
Taken from the recording "Oliver Jones Live At Biddles" (Just 1-2)
(Strayhorn - Tempo Music)
2. Sophisticated Lady - Denny Christianson Big Band
Taken from the recording "More Pepper" (Just 19-2)
(Ellington/Mills/Parish -
Everbright Music/Duke Ellington Music/Mills Music)

3. In A Sentimental Mood - Raneë Lee
Taken from the recording
"The Musicals - Jazz On Broadway" (Just 42-2)
(Ellington - Duke Ellington Music)
4. In A Mellow Tone - Dave Young/Oscar Peterson
Taken from the recording "Piano/Bass Duets-SidebySide
Vol.III (Just 91-2) (Ellington - EMI Robbins)
5. Come Sunday - Johnny O'Neal
Taken from the recording "On The Montreal Scene" (Just 85-2)
(Ellington - G. Shimmer Inc.)
6. Do Nuthin' Till You Hear From Me - Diana Krall
Taken from Diana Krall's debut Justin Time
recording "Stepping Out" (Just 50-2)
(Ellington/Russell - Airdrome Music - EMI Robbins)
7. Lush Life - Hilario Durán
Taken from the recording "Francisco's Song (Just 86-2)
(Strayhorn - Music Sales Corp.)
8. Melancholia
Taken from the "Free Trade" (Just 64-2)
(Ellington - Duke Ellington Music)
9. Day Dream - Dave Turner
Taken from the recording "For The Kindness Of Strangers" (Just 29-2)
(Ellington/Latouche/Strayhorn - EMI Robbins)
10. Chelsea Bridge - Fraser MacPherson
Taken from the recording "Encore" (Tr 8420-2)
(Strayhorn - Tempo Music)
11. Duke's Choice Jon Ballantyne
Taken from the recording "The Loose" (Just 65-2)
(Mingus - Jazz Workshop)



ELLINGTONIA

OLIVER JONES • DENNY CHRISTIANSON BIG BAND
 RANEE LEE • DAVE YOUNG/OSCAR PETERSON • JOHNNY O'NEAL
 DIANA KRALL • HILARIO DURÁN • FREE TRADE • DAVE TURNER
 FRASER MacPHERSON • JON BALLANTYNE

1. Take The 'A' Train -
Oliver Jones 5:43
2. Sophisticated Lady -
Denny Christjanson Big Band 6:40
3. In A Sentimental Mood -
Ranee Lee 4:17
4. In A Mellow Tone -
Dave Young/Oscar Peterson 4:57
5. Come Sunday -
Johnny O'Neal 6:12
6. Do Nothin' Till You Hear From Me -
Diana Krall 4:28

ELLINGTONIA



Photograph by Paul Hoeffler

7. Lush Life -
Hilario Durán 6:06
8. Melancholia -
Free Trade 4:37
9. Day Dream -
Dave Turner 5:37
10. Chelsea Bridge -
Fraser MacPherson 3:53
11. Duke's Choice -
Jon Ballantyne 4:47



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Justin Time

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