

VIDJAZZ 8

CONCERTS & JAM SESSIONS ON VIDEO

DUKE ELLINGTON

IN BERLIN, 1969

TOTAL RUNNING TIME 43 MIN. - COLOUR

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA
Berlin, November 8, 1969

Cootie Williams, Cat Anderson, Mercer Ellington, Benny Bailey, Nelson Williams (trumpet); Lawrence Brown, Chuck Connors, Aake Persson (trombone); Russell Procope (clarinet, alto sax); Johnny Hodges (alto sax); Norris Turney (alto sax, flute); Johnny Hodges (tenor sax); Harold Ashby (tenor sax, clarinet); Harry Carney (baritone sax); Duke Ellington (piano); Victor Gaskin (bass); Rufus Jones (drums), Wild Bill Davis (organ).

1. **Take the "A" Train** (Strayhorn) 6'15"
2. **La Plus Belle Africaine** (Ellington) 8'40"
3. **Black Butterfly** (Ellington) 4'45"
4. **Things Ain't What They Used To Be** (M. Ellington) 3'15"
5. **Don't Get Around Much Anymore** (Ellington - Russell) 2'40"
6. **Caravan** (Tizol - Ellington) 0'40"
7. **Mood Indigo** (Ellington) 3'30"
8. **Sophisticated Lady** (Ellington) 3'20"
9. **April in Paris** (Harburg - Duke) 3'20"
10. **Satin Doll** (Ellington) 4'55"

SERIES CO-ORDINATOR: GIGI DI LEO
MADE IN THE E.E.C.
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VHS - PAL



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During the course of the sixties Duke Ellington's band was a regular visitor to the concert halls of Europe.

This rare recording is taken from the Berlin concert of the exciting 1969 tour.

The cassette starts with a version of the band's signature tune, **Take the 'A' Train** by Billy Strayton and in which we hear solos from Ellington on piano and Cootie Williams on trombone. What follows is considered by many to be one of the best pieces by Ellington during the last years of his life: **La Plus Belle Africains**.

The soloists of this version are Russell Procope on clarinet, Victor Gaskin on double bass and Harry Carney on baritone sax.

Black Butterfly, originally recorded in the 30's by one of Cootie Williams bands but this time by Jimmy Hamilton on clarinet and Jimmy Hodges on alto sax. There is no doubt that Hodges was the most famous soloist in Ellington's band - a true "prima donna".

We come back to him in some of his 'pièce de résistance': **Things Ain't What They Used to Be** (a fine blues by Mercer, Duke's son) and **Don't Get Around Much Anymore**.

This last piece continues straight into the extremely popular **Caravan** and to **Mood Indigo**.

The solos of the clarinetist Russell Procope and the trombonist Lawrence Brown are excellent in this milestone of Ellington repertoire.

Duke could not forget Harry Carney from the gallery of illustrious soloists and who then gives his best in **Sophisticated Lady**.

To round up this selection of great musicians and great compositions Duke calls to the stage a musician who has recently joined the band: the organist Wild Bill Davis.

After we are reminded that he is the composer of the famous piece **April in Paris** made popular by Count Basie he performs the Ellington super classic hit **Satin Doll** together with the trombonists Cootie Williams and Cat Anderson.

The wonderful high notes of this last track act as an appropriate spectacular finale to our video cassette.

The historical importance of these precious collectors' items clearly compensates for any technical limitations originating from the source which may occur.

Nel corso degli anni sessanta l'orchestra di Duke Ellington fu visitatrice regolare delle sale da concerto europee. Dall'entusiasmante tournée del 1969 viene questa preziosa registrazione del concerto di Berlino.

La cassetta inizia con una versione della sigla dell'orchestra, il famoso **Take the "A" Train** di Billy Strayhorn. In cui possiamo ascoltare assoli di Ellington al piano e Cootie Williams alla tromba.

Quello che segue è considerato da molti aficionados uno dei brani più belli di Ellington negli ultimi anni della sua vita: **La Plus Belle Africaine**. I solisti di questa versione sono Russell Procope al clarinetto, Victor Gaskin al contrabbasso e Harry Carney al sax baritono.

Black Butterfly, inciso originalmente da un gruppo di Cootie Williams negli anni trenta, questa volta è appannaggio del clarinetto di Jimmy Hamilton e, soprattutto, di Johnny Hodges al sax alto. Hodges era senza dubbio il solista più celebre della band di Ellington, una vera "prima donna". Lo ritroviamo in un paio di suoi storici cavalli di battaglia: **Things Ain't What They Used To Be** (un bel blues di Mercer, figlio di Duke) e **Don't Get Around Much Anymore**.

Quest'ultimo brano si lega senza soluzione di continuità al popolarissimo **Caravan** e a **Mood Indigo**: gli assoli del clarinetista Russell Procope e del trombonista Lawrence Brown in questa pietra miliare del repertorio ellingtoniano sono da manuale. Nella galleria di solisti illustri, Duke non poteva scordare Harry Carney che a questo punto dà il meglio di sé in **Sophisticated Lady**.

Per finire questa selezione di grandi musicisti e grandi composizioni Duke chiama sul palco un musicista che aveva da poco raggiunto l'orchestra: l'organista Wild Bill Davis.

Questi, dopo averci ricordato di essere autore del celebre arrangiamento di **April in Paris** popolarizzato da Count Basie si rimenta nel superclassico ellingtoniano **Satin Doll**, cui partecipano anche i trombettisti Cootie Williams e Cat Anderson.

I fantastici sopraccuti di quest'ultimo rappresentano un appropriato finale spettacolare alla nostra videocassetta.

L'importanza storica di questa prestigiosa collezione video, compensa ampiamente qualche limitazione tecnica dovuta in alcune immagini alla rarità delle stesse.

Insert this side into recorder



Do not touch the tape inside



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