



«Duke Ellington Live in Italy 1967» Vol. II

In 1967 Duke Ellington made a European tour with his orchestra and arrived in Milan, the first venue of the tour, with a repertoire that was so new that it was not completely ready, forcing him to rehearse the whole night before appearing at the Teatro Lirico on 15th January.

The concert set only took on a definitive form after several concerts of the tour, and was in effect running in for more than a month during concerts given in the principal cities of Europe.

When, on 22nd February, Duke came back to Italy to play at the Teatro Sistina in Rome, everything had been perfected and the audience was offered a performance of great class by musicians who were completely together. For eminently practical reasons the Duke's «live» performance is divided into two albums.

The second volume of Ellington's Rome concert opens with «Stompy Jones» which is the first piece in the second half of the evening. A brilliant piece, typical of the Ellington tradition, in which the soloists are Jimmy Hamilton on clarinet, Cat Andersons on trumpet, Harry Carney on baritone sax and Lawrence Brown on trombone. This is followed rather unusually by the theme song «Take the 'A' Train». Instead of the usual trumpet solo by Ray Nance (and later by Cootie Williams), we hear on this occasion, which is quite unique and unrepeatable, a sound close-up of Jimmy Hamilton's clarinet! A rare jewel!

The concert continues with «The Shepherd», from the second of the sacred concerts that Ellington had written especially for Cootie Williams' trumpet. Williams is then the leading performer in the next piece «Tutti for Cootie», which

was generally the second execution bound up with his name, the number that Williams used to play when he was called into the spotlight for his first solo turn.

Williams is followed by a drum solo by Rufus Jones playing «Mara Gold», a number of extraordinary virtuosity.

We must not forget that no Ellington concert would be complete without the presence of Johnny Hodges.

The Golden Boy of the band is left the place of honour at the end of the evening.

He opens his set with «Star Crossed Lovers», dedicated to Lilian Terry, the Italian singer who was born in Egypt.

The piece is inspired by Romeo and Juliet, from the suite «Such Sweet Thunder». This is a particularly well-known piece, a true speciality of Hodges the Romantic, one of the gallery of numbers dedicated to Shakespearean characters. This is followed by «Magenta Haze» one of his old warhorses from the Forties, in which Hodges really gives his best.

«Drag» is then given a second airing, having been performed during the afternoon concert.

«Rockin' in Rhythm» is the finale of the concert, this is the famous Twenties arrangement, rather strangely brought out at the end of the concert as it had always been the first «on stage» piece after the signature tune.

Patrizio Visco - Roberto Caselli

Even though these 'Documents in Sound' contain defects under noises, which due to the technical limitation of the original sources, we have decided to release this material because of its artistic content and great historical level.



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Digital Remastering: Gennaro Carone
Series Coordinator: Vittorio Castelli
Liner Notes: Patrizio Visco - Roberto Caselli
Art Direction by Xerios

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

**Cat Anderson, Cootie Williams,
Money Johnson, Herbie Jones,
Mercer Ellington** trumpet
**Lawrence Brown, Chuck Connors,
Buster Cooper** trombone
Jimmy Hamilton clarinet/tenor sax
Russel Procope clarinet/alto sax
Johnny Hodges alto sax
Paul Gonsalves tenor sax
Harry Carney baritone sax/
clarinet/bass clarinet
Duke Ellington piano
John Lamb bass
Rufus Jones drums

Recorded in Rome (Italy)
February 22nd, 1967

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1. STOMPY JONES (Ellington) 3'12''
 2. TAKE THE «A» TRAIN (THEME) (Strayhorn) 42''
 3. TAKE THE «A» TRAIN (Strayhorn) 5'22''
 4. THE SHEPHERD (Ellington) 6'29''
 5. TUTTI FOR COOTIE (Ellington-Hamilton) 5'52''
 6. MARA GOLD (Ellington) 4'54''
 7. STAR CROSSED LOVERS (Strayhorn) 3'34''
 8. HARMONY IN HARLEM (Ellington) 2'20''
 9. MAGENTA HAZE (Ellington) 2'24''
 10. DRAG (Ellington) 4'09''
 11. ROCKIN' IN RHYTHM (Ellington-Carney) 3'57''

T.T. 42'55''

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