



DUKE ELLINGTON PERFECTION IN JAZZ.



DUKE ELLINGTON

PERFECTION IN JAZZ.

1.111 NUMBERED UNITS ONLY | COLLECTORS 180G VINYL



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DUKE ELLINGTON

PERFECTION IN JAZZ.

- A** TAKE THE "A" TRAIN
IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD
MOOD INDIGO
ST. LOUIS BLUES
IT DON'T MEAN A THING (IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT SWING)
[WITH ROSEMARY CLOONEY]
SOLITUDE

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DUKE ELLINGTON

PERFECTION IN JAZZ.

- B** TENDERLY
PERDIDO
PRELUDE TO A KISS
SATIN DOLL
HAUPE
DANCING IN THE DARK

NUMBERED & LIMITED
180g COLLECTORS VINYL

NR. 575 / 1111

John Doe

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, one of the most influential figures in the history of jazz, transcends the boundaries of time with his unparalleled contributions to music. Born on April 29, 1899, in Washington, D.C., Ellington's career spanned over five decades, during which he not only shaped the landscape of jazz but also became a cultural icon synonymous with innovation, elegance, and artistic brilliance. As a pianist, he was one of the most important innovators of the stride piano. As a composer, he wrote almost 2000 compositions (songs and suites), of which one hundred soon became jazz standards. As a bandleader, he contributed to the development of swing as a big band style.

Duke Ellington's early exposure to music ignited a passion that would define his life. Raised in a middle-class African American family, he began his musical journey at a young age, playing piano and learning about harmony from his church organist mother. Influenced by both the ragtime music of the time and the classical compositions he encountered, Ellington started to develop a unique musical voice. In the 1920s, Ellington moved to New York City, where the cultural melting pot fueled the emerging jazz scene. There, he assembled his own band, which would become the Duke Ellington Orchestra, or "The Duke's Men," in 1923. This marked the beginning of a prolific career that would reshape the jazz landscape.

What set Duke Ellington apart was not just his virtuosity as a pianist but his visionary approach to orchestration and composition. Ellington's genius lay in his ability to elevate jazz from a danceable popular music form to a sophisticated art form that embraced complexity and nuance. He brought together a roster of remarkable talents, and his orchestra became a laboratory for sonic innovation. Ellington's use of muted brass, smoky saxophones, and distinctive voicings became the hallmark of his orchestration. His arrangements were intricate, highlighting the individuality of each instrument while blending them into a cohesive, harmonically rich tapestry. This innovative approach to orchestration created an unmistakable sound that set the Duke Ellington

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Orchestra apart from its contemporaries. His compositions, like "Mood Indigo" or masterpieces like "Take the 'A' Train," were characterized by rich textures, harmonies, and a sense of drama. His works often went beyond conventional song structures, incorporating suites and extended compositions that showcased the diverse talents within his ensemble.

While Ellington was undeniably a jazz giant, his impact extended beyond the realm of music. In an era marked by racial segregation and discrimination, Ellington's success as a bandleader and composer challenged societal norms. His dignified demeanor and sartorial elegance earned him the nickname "Duke," reflecting the regal aura he projected. Ellington's tours around the world as a cultural ambassador not only introduced audiences to jazz but also challenged stereotypes about African American musicians. His orchestra's performances were not just concerts; they were cultural events that celebrated diversity and showcased the power of music as a universal language.

Duke Ellington's impact on jazz and American music earned him numerous accolades and honors. He received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1966, and posthumously, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1999. The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, was awarded to him posthumously in 2009. Ellington's legacy lives on not only through his extensive discography but also through the enduring influence he has had on subsequent generations of musicians. Countless artists, from big band leaders to contemporary jazz innovators, have drawn inspiration from Ellington's inventive spirit, harmonic sophistication, and commitment to musical excellence.

Duke Ellington married his childhood friend Edna Thompson in 1918 and the couple remained married until Ellington's death in 1974. During their marriage they had a son named Mercer Kennedy Ellington, who also pursued a distinguished career as a musician and bandleader.



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