

SECRET ELLINGTON

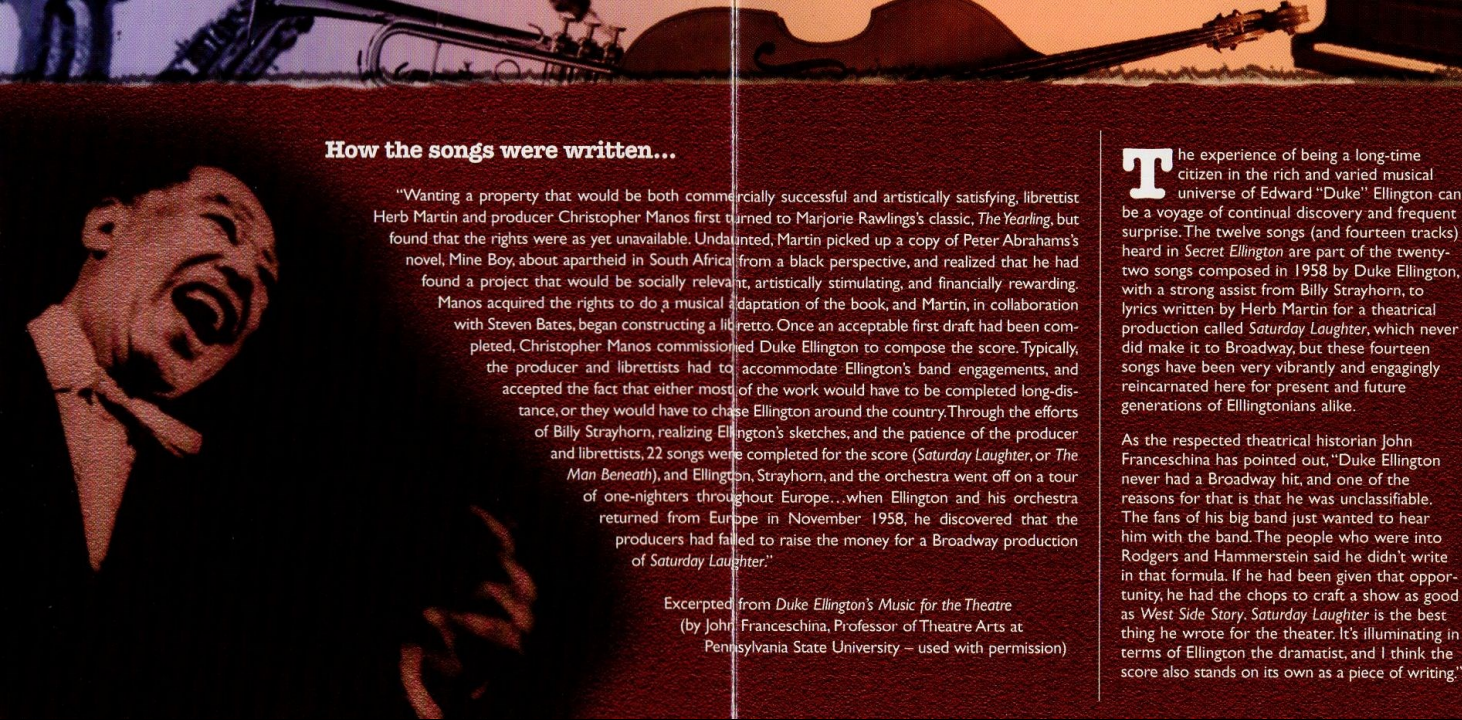
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SECRET ELLINGTON

Eric Alexander
Joe Beck
Steve Berrios
Keith Carlock
Freddy Cole
Mark Fletcher
Chip Jackson
Bob Kindred
Joe Locke
Joe Lovano
Lou Marini
George Mraz
Karen Oberlin
Arturo O'Farrill
James Pearson
Michael Pope
Ian Shaw
Judi Silvano
Jeffery Smith
Grover Washington, Jr.

PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED
COMPOSITIONS BY
DUKE ELLINGTON
LYRICS BY HERB MARTIN



How the songs were written...

"Wanting a property that would be both commercially successful and artistically satisfying, librettist Herb Martin and producer Christopher Manos first turned to Marjorie Rawlings's classic, *The Yearling*, but found that the rights were as yet unavailable. Undaunted, Martin picked up a copy of Peter Abrahams's novel, *Mine Boy*, about apartheid in South Africa from a black perspective, and realized that he had found a project that would be socially relevant, artistically stimulating, and financially rewarding. Manos acquired the rights to do a musical adaptation of the book, and Martin, in collaboration with Steven Bates, began constructing a libretto. Once an acceptable first draft had been completed, Christopher Manos commissioned Duke Ellington to compose the score. Typically, the producer and librettists had to accommodate Ellington's band engagements, and accepted the fact that either most of the work would have to be completed long-distance, or they would have to chase Ellington around the country. Through the efforts of Billy Strayhorn, realizing Ellington's sketches, and the patience of the producer and librettists, 22 songs were completed for the score (*Saturday Laughter*, or *The Man Beneath*), and Ellington, Strayhorn, and the orchestra went off on a tour of one-nighters throughout Europe...when Ellington and his orchestra returned from Europe in November 1958, he discovered that the producers had failed to raise the money for a Broadway production of *Saturday Laughter*."

Excerpted from *Duke Ellington's Music for the Theatre*
(by John Franceschina, Professor of Theatre Arts at
Pennsylvania State University – used with permission)

The experience of being a long-time citizen in the rich and varied musical universe of Edward "Duke" Ellington can be a voyage of continual discovery and frequent surprise. The twelve songs (and fourteen tracks) heard in *Secret Ellington* are part of the twenty-two songs composed in 1958 by Duke Ellington, with a strong assist from Billy Strayhorn, to lyrics written by Herb Martin for a theatrical production called *Saturday Laughter*, which never did make it to Broadway, but these fourteen songs have been very vibrantly and engagingly reincarnated here for present and future generations of Ellingtonians alike.

As the respected theatrical historian John Franceschina has pointed out, "Duke Ellington never had a Broadway hit, and one of the reasons for that is that he was unclassifiable. The fans of his big band just wanted to hear him with the band. The people who were into Rodgers and Hammerstein said he didn't write in that formula. If he had been given that opportunity, he had the chops to craft a show as good as *West Side Story*. *Saturday Laughter* is the best thing he wrote for the theater. It's illuminating in terms of Ellington the dramatist, and I think the score also stands on its own as a piece of writing."



Many of the dimensions and implications of this fine writing has been evoked by the dedicated and imaginative work of arrangers Arturo O'Farrill, Joe Beck, and James Pearson—along with the strong and sensitive singers Freddy Cole, Ian Shaw, Judi Silvano, Jeffery Smith, and Karen Oberlin—and all the wondrously resourceful instrumentalists involved in this project. The two-year labor of love that began *Secret Ellington* began in the Spring of 1999 with a sheaf of very sketchy lead sheets and a low fidelity 1960 audio cassette provided by lyricist Herb Martin, who also provided a lot of historical perspective and invaluable encouragement. Recording of four of these "secrets" began on August 17, 1999, a session highlighted by saxophonist Grover Washington, Jr.'s heart-wrenching playing entwined with Freddy Cole's tender reading of Martin's poetic and prophetic words for: "They Say."

They say that people turn into stars when they die, and live again in the midnight sky, that the summer rains are the tears they cry, and the wind in the plain is their lullaby to the ones they love and have bid goodbye.

—Todd Barkan

These songs of *Secret Ellington*, and eight more, were first performed in public at an SRO concert at St. Peter's Church in Manhattan on April 15, 2000, under the auspices of the Duke Ellington Society. Further arranging and rearranging, rehearsals, and recording sessions continued until late July, 2001.

Two different arrangements have been included here for two of the strongest melodies in this collection, "Only Yesterday" and "You Are Beautiful."

In the early 1990s, Herb Martin and the playwright Henry Miller began to create a brand new book, entitled "Renaissance Man," to go along with the Ellington music originally created for *Saturday Laughter*. The venue has been changed from the South Africa of the 1950s to the Harlem of the 1920s, and the song lyrics are being adjusted accordingly. The Duke may yet become a "king" of Broadway, but no matter what the future may bring for any of us, the reach and relevance of Ellington's music will continue to grow ever more resonant in our lives.



All music by Edward "Duke" Ellington.

All lyrics by Herb Martin.

All selections published by Famous Music Corporation and Tin Hand Publishing Corporation/ASCAP, except for "Only Yesterday" and "Big White Mountain," which are published by Music Sales Corp. and Tin Hand Publishing Corporation/ASCAP.

Produced by Todd Barkan

Assistant Producer: Derek Kwan

Art Direction/Design/Illustration: Keith Henry Brown

Executive Producers: Gerald A. Wiggins and

Edmund Puckhaber

Musical Consultant: Luther Henderson

"They Say," "You Are Beautiful" (Track 10), and

"You Walk In My Dreams" were recorded and mixed

by Troy Halderson August, 1999 at Clinton Recording

Studio, New York City.

All other tracks were recorded and mixed by

Katherine Miller between October, 2000, and July, 2001,

at The Studio, New York.

Mastered by Todd Gerard at the Gerard Sound Lab,

NYC.

Grover Washington, Jr. appears

courtesy of Columbia Records.

Joe Lovano appears courtesy of Blue Note Records.

Eric Alexander appears courtesy of Milestone Records.

In Loving Memory Of Grover Washington, Jr.

Debra R. Abramson and Edward "Duke" Ellington

Thanks To:

First and foremost, the one and only Creator of all that is seen and unseen, for providing the vision that is now the reality of True Life Entertainment

Thanks To The True Life Family:

Todd Barkan: For taking on an incredible task and delivering tenfold—Keystone Kerner & True Life Jazz Forever!!
Karen C. Christie (thanks for your hard work and unique insight), Frank Hendricks, Keith Craig Allen (a.k.a. Son of God), Clifford Jean-Philippe (aka Malakai), Al (Dohawk) Isaac and Blackroba Shabazz: The incredible team that keeps True Life's operations running smoothly on a daily basis; let's keep it going—family to the end!! Edmund Puckhaber: Thank you for offering your patience and dedication to True Life's mission.

Special Thanks To:

Herb Martin: Thank you for creating the beautiful words to go along with Duke Ellington's music and for sharing the project. Robert Opatryk, Legal Counsel: Thank you for your guidance and hard work. Thanks to the Puckhaber Family for believing in the vision. Luther Henderson: Much appreciation to you for your historic viewpoint, infinite wisdom and making yourself available to True Life at the very start of this project. Heartfelt thanks to the Wiggins' family (Tenico, Anthony, Thomas and Tyra) for understanding and coping with the late nights. Thanks to the staff at the Navarre Corporation.

Extra Special Thanks To:

Arturo O'Farrill, Joe Beck, and James Pearson, for your unstinting and absolutely indispensable musical help shining through, clarifying, arranging and conducting these songs.



1. YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL 2:55

Ian Shaw, vocal; Eric Alexander, tenor saxophone;
James Pearson, piano; Chip Jackson, bass;
Mark Fletcher, drums. Arranged by James Pearson.

2. THEY SAY 5:25

Grover Washington, Jr., soprano saxophone; Freddy Cole, vocal;
Arturo O'Farrill, piano; George Mraz, bass; Steve Berrios, drums.
Arranged by Arturo O'Farrill.

3. THIS MAN 5:44

Bob Kindred, tenor saxophone; Joe Locke, vibes; Joe Beck, guitar;
George Mraz, bass; Steve Berrios, drums. Arranged by Joe Beck.

4. ONLY YESTERDAY 4:26

Ian Shaw, vocal; James Pearson, piano; Bob Kindred, tenor
saxophone. Arranged by Ian Shaw.

5. ONLY YESTERDAY 3:38

Joe Lovano, tenor saxophone; Joe Beck, alto guitar.
Arranged by Joe Beck.

6. I LIKE SINGING 4:07

Ian Shaw, vocal; James Pearson, piano; Eric Alexander, tenor
saxophone; Chip Jackson, bass; Mark Fletcher, drums.
Arranged by James Pearson.

7. FULL OF SHADOWS 4:57

Jeffery Smith, vocal; Lou Marini, alto flute; Joe Locke,
vibes; Joe Beck, alto guitar. Arranged by Joe Beck.

8. NEW SHOES 4:03

Bob Kindred, tenor saxophone; Joe Locke, vibes; Joe Beck, guitar;
Michael Pope, bass; Keith Carlock, drums. Arranged by Joe Beck.

9. I AM LONELY 8:43

Judi Silvano, vocal; Joe Lovano, tenor saxophone; Arturo O'Farrill,
piano; Joe Beck, guitar; George Mraz, bass; Steve Berrios, drums.
Arranged by Arturo O'Farrill.

10. YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL 3:34

Freddy Cole, vocal; Arturo O'Farrill, piano.
Arranged by Arturo O'Farrill.

**11. I GET LONELY
FOR A PLAYTHING 5:06**

Bob Kindred, tenor saxophone; Joe Locke, vibes; Joe Beck, guitar;
George Mraz, bass; Steve Berrios, drums. Arranged by Joe Beck.

12. YOU WALK IN MY DREAMS 5:12

Karen Oberlin, vocal; Arturo O'Farrill, piano; George Mraz, bass;
Steve Berrios, drums. Arranged by Arturo O'Farrill.

13. BIG WHITE MOUNTAIN 5:59

Joe Locke, vibes; Joe Beck, guitar; Bob Kindred, tenor
saxophone; Michael Pope, guitar; Keith Carlock, drums.
Arranged by Joe Beck.

14. MY HOME LIES QUIET 3:33

Jeffery Smith, vocal; Lou Marini, alto flute; Joe Beck, alto guitar.
Arranged by Joe Beck.

TOTAL TIME 65:44 DDD



TLE 100002

SECRET ELLINGTON

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS (1999-2001) OF TWELVE SONGS WRITTEN BY
DUKE ELLINGTON AND HERB MARTIN IN 1958 FOR A BROADWAY SHOW,
SATURDAY LAUGHTER, THAT NEVER GOT PRODUCED

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 1. YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL | 2:55 |
| 2. THEY SAY | 5:25 |
| 3. THIS MAN | 5:44 |
| 4. ONLY YESTERDAY | 4:26 |
| 5. ONLY YESTERDAY | 3:38 |
| 6. I LIKE SINGING | 4:07 |
| 7. FULL OF SHADOWS | 4:57 |
| 8. NEW SHOES | 4:03 |
| 9. I AM LONELY | 8:43 |
| 10. YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL | 3:34 |
| 11. I GET LONELY FOR A PLAYTHING | 5:06 |
| 12. YOU WALK IN MY DREAMS | 3:12 |
| 13. BIG WHITE MOUNTAIN | 5:59 |
| 14. MY HOME LIES QUIET | 3:33 |

MUSIC BY DUKE ELLINGTON

LYRICS BY HERB MARTIN

ARRANGEMENTS BY ARTURO O'FARRILL,
JOE BECK, JAMES PEARSON, AND IAN SHAW

IAN SHAW • FREDDY COLE • JEFFERY SMITH
JUDI SILVANO • KAREN OBERLIN • ERIC ALEXANDER
GROVER WASHINGTON, JR. • JOE LOVANO
BOB KINDRED • ARTURO O'FARRILL • JOE BECK
JAMES PEARSON • LOU MARINI • JOE LOCKE
GEORGE MRAS • CHIP JACKSON • MICHAEL POPE
STEVE BERRIOS • MARK FLETCHER • KEITH CARLOCK

PRODUCED BY TODD BARKAN

ASSISTANT PRODUCER: DEREK KWAN

ART DIRECTION / DESIGN: KEITH HENRY BROWN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: GERALD A. WIGGINS AND
EDMUND PUCKHABER

MUSICAL CONSULTANT: LUTHER HENDERSON



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