

Vol. 10

DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA
THE TREASURY SHOWS



D.E.T.S.

2
CD SET

CD 1*(a) Treasury Broadcast No 18-Radio City Studio 6-B, New York City August 11th 1945*

1. (Theme) Take The "A" Train (Billy Strayhorn)	0:48
2. What Am I Here For? (Duke Ellington)	3:11
3. Blue Is The Night (F. Fisher)	4:04
4. Ellington Bond Promo	0:48
5. The Wish I Wish Tonight (vocal Joya Sherrill)(M. K. Jerome-J. Scholl)	1:56
6. Someone into station break (Duke Ellington)	1:34
7. (Theme) Take The "A" Train and return(Billy Strayhorn)	0:44
8. Harlem Air Shaft (Duke Ellington)	3:18
9. Out Of This World (vocal Kay Davis)((Harold Arlen-Johnny Mercer)	2:57
10. Ellington Bond Promo	0:40
11. Midriff (Billy Strayhorn)	4:30
12. Everything But You (vocal Joya Sherrill)(Duke-Ellington-Harry James-Don George)	3:40
13. Ring Dem Bells (Duke Ellington-Irving Mills)	3:29
14. Mood To Be Wooded (Duke Ellington-Johnny Hodges)	4:21
15. Ellington Bond Promo	0:46
16. Emancipation Celebration into broadcast close (Duke Ellington)	1:47

(b) Broadcast from The New Zanzibar, New York City-September 26th, 1945 (NBC)

17. (Theme) Take The "A" Train (Billy Strayhorn)	0:41
18. Suddenly It Jumped (Duke Ellington)	2:51
19. Laura (Dave Raskin-Johnny Mercer)	3:09
20. Kissing Bug (vocal Joya Sherrill)(Billy Strayhorn-Rex Stewart-Joya Sherrill)	3:16
21. Stomp Jones (Duke Ellington)	3:41
22. Solid Old Man (Duke Ellington)	3:34
23. Carnegie Blues (Duke Ellington)	3:01
24. In A Mellotone (Duke Ellington)	3:00
25. Fancy Dan (Duke Ellington)	4:15
26. (Theme) Take The "A" Train and close (Billy Strayhorn)	0:58

Total Time: 67:05

CD 2*(a) Treasury Broadcast No. 19-Radio City Studio 6B, New York City-August 18th, 1945*

1. (Theme) Take The "A" Train (Billy Strayhorn)	0:41
2. Work Song (Black, Brown And Beige) (Duke Ellington)	7:02
2. Ellington Bond Promo	1:02
4. The Blues (vocal Marie Ellington) (Black, Brown And Beige) (Duke Ellington)	5:28
5. West Indian Dance (Black, Brown And Beige) (Duke Ellington)	2:30
6. Ellington Bond Promo	1:12
7. Come Sunday/Light (Black, Brown And Beige) (Duke Ellington)	8:43
8. (Theme) Take The "A" Train into station break (Billy Strayhorn)	0:28
9. (Theme) Take The "A" Train and broadcast return (Billy Strayhorn)	0:32
10. Subtle Slough (Duke Ellington)	4:10
11. Ellington Bond Promo	0:56
12. Blue Skies (Irving Berlin)	3:23
13. I Ain't Got Nothin' But The Blues (vocal Albert Hibbler and Kay Davis)(Duke Ellington-Don George)	3:00
14. Riff Staccato (vocal Ray Nance) (Arthur Schwartz-Milton Orient)	3:05
15. Bugle Breaks (Duke Ellington-Rex Stewart-Mercer Ellington)	3:06
16. Kissing Bug (vocal Joya Sherrill) (Billy Strayhorn-Rex Stewart-Joya Sherrill)	3:23
17. Ellington Bond Promo	1:01
18. Suddenly It Jumped (Duke Ellington)	3:04
19. Warm Valley (into broadcast close) (Duke Ellington)	3:47

(a) Broadcast from the 400 Restaurant, New York City-May 4th, 1945 (CBS)

20. (Theme) Take The "A" Train (Billy Strayhorn)	0:28
21. I Miss Your Kiss (S. Skylar-B. Kaye)	3:06
22. He's Home For A Little While (vocal Joya Sherrill) (T. Shapiro-T. Goell)	2:55
23. Riff Staccato (vocal Ray Nance) (Arthur Schwartz-Milton Orient)	3:07
24. I Ain't Got Nothin' But The Blues (vocal Albert Hibbler and Kay Davis)(Duke Ellington-Don George)	3:01
25. I'm Beginning To See The Light (vocal Joya Sherrill)(Duke Ellington-Johnny Hodges-Harry James-Don George)	1:58

Total Time: 71:22

CD 1 and CD 2

(a) Duke Ellington (piano, arranger, leader) Rex Stewart, Taft Jordan, Shelton Hemphill, Cat Anderson (trumpets) Ray Nance trumpet, violin, vocal) Joseph Nanton, Lawrence Brown, Claude Jones (trombones) Al Sears (tenor sax) Jimmy Hamilton (clarinet & Tenor sax) Johnny Hodges, Otto Hardwick (alto saxes) Harry Carney (baritone sax, clarinet, bass clarinet) Billy Strayhorn (piano, arranger) Fred Guy (guitar) Junior Raglin (bass) Sonny Greer (drums) Kay Davis, Albert Hibbler, Marie Ellington, Joya Sherrill
And Ray Nance (vocals)

(b) Same as for (a) but Ray Nance (trumpet, violin, vocal) vocals by Albert Hibbler Kay Davis and Joya Sherrill

THE DOG DAYS OF AUGUST (1945)

After closing the State Theatre in Hartford on July 29th the band returned to New York City for recording work at both RCA-Victor and World Broadcasting Service. There is absolutely no other activity this first week in August with the exception of the upcoming Treasury Broadcast of Saturday, August 4th. After the final recording session for World Broadcasting on August 7th there are no club bookings or one-nighters through the appearances of the next two Treasury Broadcasts that appear on this double CD set. Billboard reported that Ellington was booked for a series of eleven one-nighters in the mid-west but he cancelled all of them on doctor's orders.

Between these two Treasury broadcasts came one of the most important historical events of the 20th Century. On August 15th World War II ended with the surrender of Japan. This meant that the purchase of War Bonds (now to be known as Victory Bonds) would be an essential obligation by people in the United States and it would also mean that Ellington's Saturday broadcasts would continue in an effort to help this important activity.

ELLINGTON'S RECORDING ACTIVITY DURING THIS PERIOD

Monday, July 30th RCA-Victor Studios, Studio 2:

COLORATURA - TIME'S A-WASTIN' - DANCERS IN LOVE

Tuesday, July 31st World Broadcasting System Decca Studio B

TEARDROPS IN THE RAIN - METRONOME ALL OUT - ESQUIRE SWANK - DOWNBEAT SHUFFLE

RIFF STACCATO

Tuesday, August 7th World Broadcasting System Decca Studio B

ULTRA BLUE - EVERYTHING BUT YOU - FRUSTRATION - HOLLYWOOD HANGOVER - BLUES ON THE DOUBLE
KISSING BUG - EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR - PASSION FLOWER - IN A JAM - IN THE SHADE OF THE OLD APPLE
TREE

THE MUSIC

(All music titles are shown in BOLD as well as the original studio recording dates, also BOLD and in parenthesis)

CD 1

After the opening theme Duke Ellington unearths his box of treasures and we're under way with **What Am I Here For?** (**February 26, 1942**). This is the second performance of three in the Treasury Series. Ellington and the band

open with fine solo work by Joe Nanton, Rex Stewart, and Al Sears. To me, the performance shows off the richness of the Ellington reed section.

Blue Is The Night (August 26, 1946) follows. There are four Treasury Broadcast performances on this swinger. It sounds more like a Sy Oliver arrangement for Tommy Dorsey. The soloists heard here are Lawrence Brown, Harry Carney, Ray Nance and Johnny Hodges. This leads us into Duke's first bond promo. After Duke finishes his bond work Joya Sherrill follows with a pop tune of the day *The Wish I Wish Tonight*. Ellington realized it was strictly a song for these times and he never bothered making a commercial recording of this number. The selection appeared on the Treasury Series a total of three times, this being the final one.

Someone (February 26, 1942) is a medium to fast tempo tune featuring the talents of Johnny Hodges, Lawrence Brown and Ray Nance. Four Treasury Broadcasts in 1945 and 1946 and a transcription recording for CAPITOL on July 17, 1946 were performed on the tune. This leads into the station break.

After the return we swing into **Harlem Air Shaft (July 22, 1940)** a very well known selection in the Ellington book. This title appeared just twice in the series. It features Joe Nanton, Rex Stewart and Johnny Hodges. A very popular tune in 1945 was the Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen ballad *Out Of This World*. Tommy Dorsey had the big hit on this one and Duke wisely never recorded it. The vocal honors here go to Kay Davis. Ellington's second bond promo follows.

Strayhorn's tune **Midriff (September 3, 1946)** is next. It was in the band book since 1944 and we find four Treasury Show performances (all in 1945). It is a feature for Lawrence Brown's trombone work. **Everything But You (May 1, 1945)** is next. Ellington had great hopes for this selection. It's a joint collaboration with Harry James and Don George (lyrics). In fact this performance features Joya Sherrill's vocal efforts. The tune makes an excellent closing theme and this is found on some of the broadcasts from the New Zanzibar. We find it on the Treasury Series as an instrumental only once. The other ten performances have Joya's vocal. She is backed with fine work by Jimmy Hamilton, Rex Stewart and Harry Carney.

Ring Dem Bells (August 26, 1930) follows. With Ellington and Sonny Greer sparking the tempo, we are treated to some good solo work with Ray Nance taking on the Cootie Williams trumpet and vocal. The other participants who fare very well are Johnny Hodges and Harry Carney. **Mood To Be Wooped (January 4, 1945)** is Johnny Hodges' vehicle. This beautiful Ellington and Hodges collaboration is found on seven Treasury Shows including this one. Duke's final bond Promo on the show follows here. Then we get to hear as the final selection on the broadcast, **Emancipation Celebration (December 12, 1944)**. This is one of the Three Dances segment from Ellington's ambitious 1943 work **Black, Brown and Beige**. It features some very exciting work by Rex Stewart with contributions by Joe Nanton and Junior Raglin closing the broadcast.

We now switch to an NBC broadcast from the New Zanzibar on September 26, 1945. After the "**A**" **Train** theme we open with **Suddenly It Jumped (July 9, 1946)**. The honors on this tune go to Taft Jordan's trumpet work with contributions from Duke's piano and Junior Raglin's bass. The tune had been in the band book since 1944. **Laura**, a beautiful 1945 Raskin-Mercer tune follows. It had been played only once on the Treasury Series (**May 26, 1945**)

and was not commercially recorded until the BETLEHEM February 1956 session. In all the versions it is a Johnny Hodges lyrical success. **Kissing Bug (April 26, 1945)** is next. Well featured on the Treasury Broadcasts it is a pop item with Joya Sherrill's vocal.

Stompy Jones (January 9, 1934) comes next. A tune dedicated to the band boy "Jonesy" it offers ad-lib solo work on a theme here with solos by Duke, Lawrence Brown, Jimmy Hamilton, Ray Nance, Harry Carney, and Cat Anderson. Next we have **Solid Old Man (March 21, 1939)**. The arrangement is very close to the original with solo work by Lawrence Brown and Joe Nanton. **Carnegie Blues (January 4, 1945)** was inspired when Duke listened to the fog horn on Lake Michigan. After his introduction we hear solos by Al Sears, Lawrence Brown and Junior Raglin.

In A Mellotone (September 5, 1940) an Ellington gem features Ray Nance and Johnny Hodges. **Fancy Dan**, a tune with five Treasury Broadcasts was one that Duke never recorded. An up tempo item, we find solo work by Ellington, Raglin, Nanton, Carney, Stewart and Sears.

CD 2

The entire first half on this Treasury Show covers various sections of **Black, Brown And Beige**. First is **Work Song (December 11, 1944)**. After the band intro we hear the work of Harry Carney, Cat Anderson, Joe Nanton and Otto Hardwick. Duke's first bond promo is next. Then we return to **Black, Brown And Beige** excerpts with **The Blues (December 12, 1944)**. Missing here is the great work of Ben Webster and Betty Roche's vocal from January 23, 1943 but we get a very good rendition by Marie Ellington with sax accompaniment by Al Sears. **West Indian Dance (December 12, 1944)** is all Duke and the band here. Another bond promo follows. We conclude with **Come Sunday (December 11, 1944)** and **Light (December 12, 1944)**. Most of the Treasury Broadcasts offer these two selections together. **Come Sunday** has Claude Jones, Johnny Hodges and Ray Nance and Light Cat Anderson, Rex Stewart, Junior Raglin, and Claude Jones.

Following the station break we are treated to an evergreen item **Subtle Slough (July 3, 1941)** Revived in 1945 with lyrics added it became known as **Just Squeeze Me (July 10, 1946)**. On this rendition it is announced as **Subtle Slough** and this non-vocal performance features the work of Rex Stewart with support from Joe Nanton and Ray Nance. A bond promo follows.

Blue Skies (November 25, 1946) a Mary-Lou Williams arrangement, was being performed as early as 1943 eventually becoming a showcase feature for the trumpet section. As performed here it features, in order, Duke Ellington, Junior Raglin, Jimmy Hamilton, Taft Jordan, Al Sears, Cat Anderson and Johnny Hodges. A total of four of these performances are found in these Treasury Broadcasts. **I Ain't Got Nothin' But The Blues (December 1, 1944)** features the vocal talents of Al Hibbler and Kay Davis combined. After an Ellington/Raglin introduction they are backed by the tenor work of Al Sears. **Riff Staccato (May 1, 1945)** is a vehicle for Al Sears with Ray Nance vocal and trumpet work for Taft Jordan. **Bugle Breaks (December 3, 1941)**. Originally recorded for Standard Transcriptions. The only other performances found are on Treasury Broadcasts. A feature for Rex

Stewart, the other soloists are Jimmy Hamilton and Lawrence Brown.

Kissing Bug (April 28, 1945) features Joya Sherrill's vocal. A novelty tune written by Billy Strayhorn, Rex Stewart and Joya Sherrill it was heavily plugged in 1945 on seven of the Treasury Broadcasts and recorded for World Transcriptions (**August 7, 1945**). Ellington's final Bond Promo follows. **Suddenly It Jumped (July 9, 1946)** is a real swinger. Solo sequence is Duke Ellington, Taft Jordan, Jimmy Hamilton, Duke Ellington/Junior Hamilton. The broadcast closes with **Warm Valley (October 17, 1940)**. This lush Johnny Hodges vehicle was used as a closing theme during the 1940 ASCAP ban. Since then it has become a main feature in the band book and performed at many Ellington concerts. During the 1945-1946 Treasury Broadcasts it is found on four of the programs. And it closes out the broadcast.

We continue with a broadcast from the 400 Restaurant on closing night, May 4, 1945. Many of the Ellington discographies show the broadcast date as May 1. We transferred this broadcast from acetates, the label shows "**May 4, 1945**". After the opening theme of **Take The "A" Train** we are treated to a vehicle for Lawrence Brown, **I Miss Your Kiss**. There are no commercial recordings made by Ellington on this tune and only two Treasury Broadcasts with this number.

He's Home For A Little While, follows. This war time ballad features Joya Sherrill's vocal along with some tasty work by Rex Stewart. **Riff Staccato (May 1, 1945)** is similar to the version presented on the Treasury Broadcast above. The same holds true for **I Ain't Got Nothin' But The Blues (December 1, 1944)**. **I'm Beginning To See The Light (December 1, 1944)** concludes this broadcast pickup. Collector's of this CD series have heard enough of this selection on the Treasury Shows to make a description of this version unnecessary. It is all Joya Sherrill with the band's background on this CBS broadcast.

Jerry Valburn April 2004

Jerry Valburn is a retired broadcast and recording engineer. His passion with Ellington started as a boy of 12 and his collecting and research of Ellington's music have remained throughout his life.

Today, his Ellington collection resides in the archives at the Library Of Congress in Washington, DC. His published works include *The Directory Of Duke Ellington's Recordings and Duke Ellington On Compact Disc*. With Ellington researcher, Lance Travis, they are currently working on a revised edition of *Compact Disc*. Jerry is a member of many of the Duke Ellington Societies around the world as well as a long time member of DEMS. He is most proud to be the producer of the DETS series which will result in 24 double CDs at its completion.

Contact him at jvalburn13@netzero.net

About The Treasury Shows

In April 1945 the war was ending in Europe but a large expensive operation lay ahead to complete the victory in the Pacific. Along with the "Mighty Seventh War Loan" the United States Treasury Department contracted Duke Ellington and His Famous Orchestra to perform a series of public service broadcasts over the Blue Network on Saturdays. These 55 minute programs would give Ellington a wide choice of material to perform including his older work; new instrumentals and pop tunes and his extended works as well. The series was launched on April 7th, 1945 while the band was performing at the 400 Restaurant in New York City. These wonderful broadcasts ran through November 1945 and picked up again in April 1946 through early October. It is something of a miracle that these precious broadcasts survived all these years and are in such good quality as well. We've also included some interesting broadcasts from 1943 through 1954 where Duke performed for the Treasury Department, radio remotes from New York's New Zanzibar & Birdland and those broadcast from Meadowbrook Gardens in Culver City, California and the Blue Note in Chicago.

So sit back and enjoy these Ducal highlights from over fifty years ago.

Jerry Valburn

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Duke Ellington's Treasury Shows



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Duke Ellington And His Orchestra
August 11th, 1945 - September 26th, 1945

1



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Duke Ellington's Treasury Shows



COMPACT disc DIGITAL AUDIO

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Duke Ellington And His Orchestra
August 18th, 1945 - May 4th, 1945

2

D.E.T.S. DUKE ELLINGTON THE TREASURY SHOWS 903 9010

DUKE ELLINGTON

THE TREASURY SHOWS VOLUME 10

CD 1

1. (Theme) Take The "A" Train0:50
2. What Am I Here For?3:11
3. Blue Is The Night4:04
4. Ellington Bond Promo0:48
5. The Wish I Wish Tonight1:56
6. Someone into station break1:34
7. (Theme) Take The "A" Train and return0:44
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10. Ellington Bond Promo0:40
11. Midriff4:30
12. Everything But You3:40
13. Ring Dem Bells3:29
14. Mood To Be Wooed4:21
15. Ellington Bond Promo0:46
16. Emancipation Celebration into broadcast close ..1:47
17. (Theme) Take The "A" Train0:41
18. Suddenly It Jumped2:51
19. Laura3:09
20. Kissing Bug3:16
21. Stompy Jones3:41
22. Solid Old Man3:34
23. Carnegie Blues3:01
24. In A Mellotone3:00
25. Fancy Dan4:15
26. (Theme) Take The "A" Train and close0:58

Total Time: 67:05

CD 2

1. (Theme) Take The "A" Train0:41
2. Work Song (Black, Brown And Beige)7:02
3. Ellington Bond Promo1:02
4. The Blues (Black, Brown And Beige)5:28
5. West Indian Dance (Black, Brown And Beige)2:30
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10. Subtle Slough4:10
11. Ellington Bond Promo0:56
12. Blue Skies3:23
13. I Ain't Got Nothin' But The Blues3:00
14. Riff Staccato3:05
15. Bugle Breaks3:06
16. Kissing Bug3:23
17. Ellington Bond Promo1:01
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