

Vol.9

•DUKE ELLINGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA•
•THE TREASURY SHOWS•



D.E.T.S.

2
CD SET

CD 1*(a) Treasury Broadcast No 16-State Theatre, Hartford, Connecticut July 28th 1945*

1. (Opening Theme) **Take The "A" Train** (Billy Strayhorn)
2. **Teardrops In The Rain** (Cat Anderson-Duke Ellington)
3. **Frustration** (Duke Ellington)
4. Ellington Bond Promo
5. **Everything But You** (vocal Joya Sherrill) (Duke Ellington-Harry James-Don George)
6. **9:20 Special** (Earle Warren)
7. **Moon Mist** (Mercer Ellington)
8. **Rockin' In Rhythm** (Duke Ellington-Harry Carney-Irving Mills)
9. Ellington Bond Promo
10. **Every Hour On The Hour** (vo Albert Hibbler) (Duke Ellington-Don George) into Station Break
11. (Theme) **Take The "A" Train** into Broadcast Return (Billy Strayhorn)
12. MEDLEY :
 - (a) In **A Sentimental Mood** (D. Ellington-M. Kurtz-I. Mills) (b) **Black Beauty** (Duke Ellington)
 - (c) **Sophisticated Lady** (D. Ellington-M. Parish-I. Mills) (d) **Caravan** (D. Ellington-J. Tizol-I. Mills)
 - (e) **Solitude** (D. Ellington-E. De Lange-I. Mills) (f) **I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart** (D. Ellington-H. Nemo-I. Mills)
13. Ellington Bond Promo
14. **Trumpet In Spades** (Duke Ellington)
15. **Just A-Sittin' And A-Rockin'** (D. Ellington-B. Strayhorn-L. Gaines)
16. **Go Away Blues** (vocal Joya Sherrill) (Duke Ellington)
17. Ellington Bond Promo
18. **One O'Clock Jump** (C. Basie-E. Durham)
Into broadcast close

Total Time: 70:00

CD 2*(b) (Broadcast From The New Zanzibar November 28th, 1945 (continued)*

1. **Time's A-Wastin'** (J. Hodges-T. Jordan-L. Brown)
2. **Three Cent Stomp** (Duke Ellington)
3. **Long, Strong And Consecutive** (vocal Joya Sherrill) (R. Stewart-J. Hamilton-J. Sherrill)
4. **Blue Skies** (Irving Berlin)
5. **Everything But You** into broadcast close (Duke Ellington-Harry James-Don George)
(a) (Treasury Broadcast No 17 from the Radio City Studios, NYC - August 4th, 1945)
6. (Opening Theme) **Take The "A" Train** (Billy Strayhorn)
7. **Dancing In The Dark** (A. Schwartz-H. Dietz)
8. **Downbeat Shuffle** (Duke Ellington)
9. Ellington Bond Promo
10. **Tonight I Shall Sleep** (vocal Albert Hibbler)(D. Ellington-I. Gordon-M. Ellington)
11. **Esquire Swank** (Duke Ellington-Johnny Hodges)
12. **Creole Love Call** (vocal Kay Davis)(D. Ellington-B. Miley-R. Jackson)
13. **I Miss Your Kiss** (S. Skylar-B. Kaye)
14. **Riff Staccato** (A. Schwartz-Orient) Into Ellington Bond Promo followed by Station Break
15. (Theme) **Take The "A" Train** and broadcast return (Billy Strayhorn)
16. Medley: (a) **Passion Flower** (Billy Strayhorn) (b) **Frantic Fantasy** (Duke Ellington-Rex Stewart) (c) **Air Conditioned Jungle** (Duke Ellington-Jimmy Hamilton) (d) **On The Sunny Side Of The Street** (Jimmy McHugh-Dorothy Fields)
17. **Metronome All Out** (Duke Ellington-Billy Strayhorn)
18. **Everything But You** (Duke Ellington-Harry James-Don George) and Ellington Bond Promo
19. **Solid Old Man** into broadcast close (Duke Ellington)

Total Time: 71:09

CD 1 & 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, Joya Sherrill (vocals)
(b) same as for (a) but Ray Nance out and Oscar Pettiford replaces Junior Raglin vocals by Albert Hibbler and Joya Sherrill (only)

Volume 9 of DETS, this monumental collection of Duke Ellington in 1945, contains a few gems that make everything, including those turgid yet sometimes emotional war bond promos voiced by Duke himself, seem a little more important, more worthwhile. Is this set historic?

In a sense, yes. Why? Because it marks our time and place. Listen to that interrupted broadcast early in the first disc that gave us the upbeat news that the Senate had overwhelmingly ratified the United Nations Charter, making the U. S. the first super power to do so, igniting a hope that world peace would stretch into future centuries. The U. S. and the UN have endured many troubling days since then, particularly in Iraq in early 2003 as these notes are being written. May they continue in peace.

Perhaps musically this set is not really historic. Ellington's music remained of high caliber. The Ellington band was really quite stable during this period - 28 July 45, 4 Aug. 45 to 28 Nov. 45 - and it didn't stray far from Duke's home of choice, Manhattan. The first of the Treasury "Date With The Duke" shows on these discs—aired as WWII was winding down—was held at the State Theatre in Hartford, Connecticut, less than a day from home. The other one (4 Aug 45) was broadcast from the ABC Studios in New York's Radio City. The November broadcast for The Mutual Broadcasting System (28 Nov. 45) emanated from the New Zanzibar, a midtown Manhattan nightclub.

But there's no denying it. Things weren't like they used to be. Ben was gone, So was Cootie. And Blanton, Ivie, too. Who could forget those musical voices? Change is part of life. Ellington and his music always underscored that fact. The music on these discs included pop tunes of the day as well as Ellington staples, some relatively new at the time. For this listener one of the real gems is a reworking of **Creole Love Call**, first recorded by Duke in 1927 with his final version done in 1974, shortly before his death. Here we hear the first of four interpretations featuring Kay Davis that were done in 1945.

Part of the joy of listening to Ellington's music on these discs is discovery. Perhaps what I view as real gems will be pretty paste jewelry to you. But I suggest you listen one more time to **Trumpet In Spades**, the renowned Rex Stewart feature. This is a "wow" rendering of what in my view, became Rex's own Carnival Of Venice. Magnificently played. Then there's what was to become known as the **Magazine Suite** [Downbeat Shuffle,

Esquire Swank and **Metronome All Out!**, three separate tributes to jazz-polling periodicals of the day that treated Duke royally. Just one more gem and then each listener is on his/her own: the honors on **I'm Just A Lucky So And So** go to Johnny Hodges and Lawrence Brown.

THE MUSIC

Disc 1 opens to a cheering audience at Hartford's State Theatre with the theme, **Take The "A" Train**, then we hear a swinger, **Teardrops In The Rain**, featuring the muted trumpet of Cat Anderson. This is followed by that wonderful "baritone voice," as announcer Bill Abernathy puts it, of Harry Carney playing **Frustration**. It seems ironic that this tune is interrupted for "a special bulletin announcing the U. S. Senate's ratification of the UN Charter. "Frustration" has to have special meaning for people in the U.S. and elsewhere concerning the future of world peace and the UN.

Next, Ellington's first bond promo of the show. To my ears a good number of his bond promos—on this as well as previous and upcoming volumes—sound as though they are getting a first reading. That is not to impugn Duke's sincerity, merely his instant acting skills or lack of time to rehearse his reading. Without question he was a person of deep feelings and emotions, as well as being one with considerable dramatic ability. The stiffness of the promos doesn't suit him.

Vocalist Joya Sherrill offers a pleasant version of **Everything But You**. To date over 20 of these performances have surfaced on various 1945 air checks. Perky is an appropriate adjective for her. A good singer, like a number of Ellingtonians of this period, underrated by jazz critics and the general public. Think of Al Sears who got the tough job of trying to fill Ben Webster's shoes.

Up next is **9:20 Special**, a tune that was also recorded by both Harry James and Count Basie. Good but nothin' special. One hears a touch of Cat Anderson's high-note trumpet.

Wonderful solos by Ray Nance (violin) and Johnny Hodges (alto sax) and Lawrence Brown (trombone) make **Moon Mist** shimmer. The whole band is lovely.

A classic Ellington chart, **Rockin' In Rhythm**, follows. How many times did Duke call this tune? One can get an idea from two indispensable discographies: Willie Timmer's **Ellingtonia** and **The New Desor** compiled by Luciano Massagli and Giovanni M. Volonté. And those were only the recorded versions.

"**Rockin'**" is followed by another bond promo and vocalist Al Hibbler does **Every Hour On The Hour**, a minor Ellington tune but Hibbler sounds good and Johnny Hodges is Johnny Hodges. You can't get better.

After a station break and **The "A" Train** theme comes **The Medley**. Oh, how some in the band must have dreaded this, night after night after night. But it paid the rent. Duke never wanted to disappoint his public and

probably never did. They demanded hearing these tunes. So let's hear that ostentatious, overblown introduction that might make one think you're about to see a really big musical review. Ah, but the songs themselves remain wonderful, dotted with splendid solos by everyone involved. In **A Sentimental Mood-Black Beauty-Sophisticated Lady-Caravan-Solitude-I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart**. Of course, each can stand alone and has for decades.

Another promo and then a Treasury Series Treasure: Rex Stewart's **Trumpet In Spades**. Remember this one because it puts most other features by trumpet/cornet players into perspective.

Just A-Sittin' And A-Rockin' is kicked off at a comfortable tempo for solos by Al Sears' tenor and Joe (Tricky Sam) Nanton's trombone.

After Joya Sherrill sings **Go Away Blues** and a bond promo, we come upon an interesting bit of Ellington lore: the second performance in the series by Duke of Count Basie's **One O'Clock Jump**. Ellington had tried out the tune before, four weeks earlier on the Treasury Broadcast at The Apollo on 125th Street (**DETS 903 9007**). This rather longish rendition wraps up the Treasury Show from Hartford. One can hear the Ellington sidemen beginning to dig into the riffs. But let's face facts, it didn't swing like Basie's band.

The scene changes to The New Zanzibar in the heart of midtown Manhattan. The nightclub had several names over the years, one of the better known was The Hurricane (1943-1944). One can imagine a cool fall night in November with the lights of Broadway twinkling as people scurry about, perhaps even beginning their holiday shopping. The broadcast opens with **Crosstown**, a Johnny Hodges tune. One should never overlook how instrumental (pun intended) the Rabbit was to Duke's music. He was not only the supreme soloist but also the sculptor of many Ellington blues.

Joya Sherrill offers **The Wonder Of You**, credited to Ellington, Hodges and Don George. **Cotton Tail** follows with Al Sears trying to make Ben's solo his own. This time Al Hibbler gets to sing **I'm Just A Lucky So And So**, accompanied by some very tasty Lawrence Brown on trombone.

CD 2 continues the broadcast and opens with another number Hodges left his stamp on, **Time's A-Wastin' (AKA Things Ain't What They Used To Be)**.

Three Cent Stomp follows, an easy if typical Ellington swinger.

Long, Strong, And Consecutive features some nice Rex Stewart and Joya Sherrill's vocal, then Jimmy Hamilton's clarinet closes out the tune.

Duke provides the piano intro to **Blue Skies**, which proves to be a comfortable workout for the trumpet section. It also allows Jimmy Hamilton to soar above the band.

The broadcast ends with **Everything But You**, composed by Ellington, Harry James and Don George. Instrumentally it offers a beautiful closing theme.

Then it's another Saturday afternoon and a **Date With The Duke**. The 4 Aug 45 session at ABC's Radio City Studios gets underway with Duke's theme, then the second found broadcast version of **Dancing In The Dark**. That leads to the first installment of **The Magazine Suite**, namely **Downbeat Shuffle**, featuring Jimmy Hamilton's clarinet and Harry Carney's bass clarinet plus some unmistakable trombone by Joe (Tricky Sam) Nanton. A bond promo follows. Then **Tonight I Shall Sleep**, on which Mercer Ellington gets co-composer credits with his dad, and is sung by Al Hibbler whose many air checks turn up on more than a half dozen broadcasts with Duke over the period from 1943 to 1945.

The second part of Ellington's tribute to the poll-taking magazines, **Esquire Swank**, features its co-composer, Johnny Hodges along with a touch of Rex Stewart.

My personal highlight of this broadcast, **Creole Love Call**, follows. It's Kay Davis' first of four versions done in 1945.

1945 was the year radio announcer Bill Abernathy called him Larry, and not Lawrence Brown. Here the trombonist plays his feature, **I Miss Your Kiss**.

Riff Staccato is the background music for Duke's next bond promo, which leads into a station break. When we return to Ellington's "internationally famous orchestra" and the strains of "**A**" **Train**, we are treated to features by four of the band's stars: **Passion Flower** (Johnny Hodges), **Frantic Fantasy** (Rex Stewart), **Air Conditioned Jungle** (Jimmy Hamilton) and **On The Sunny Side Of The Street** (Lawrence Brown). The latter became the sole property of Hodges after Brown left the band but here the trombonist etches it like a beautiful drawing.

The show can't wrap up without the final magazine tribute, a swinger called **Metronome All Out**. There's some nice Ray Nance pizzicato violin and some happy sounds from Duke and bassist Junior Raglin.

Joya Sherrill sings **Everything But You** and that tune provides the background for Duke's final bond promo of the day. The band closes the show with **Solid Old Man**, a swinging Ellington chestnut.

Notes by Dick Zander of Averill Park, NY, former political editor/columnist for Newsday and New York Newsday, longtime member of the New York chapter of the Duke Ellington Society, the English chapter DESUK, DEMS and the International Association of Jazz Record Collectors (IAJRC) and an ardent Ellington listener- fan
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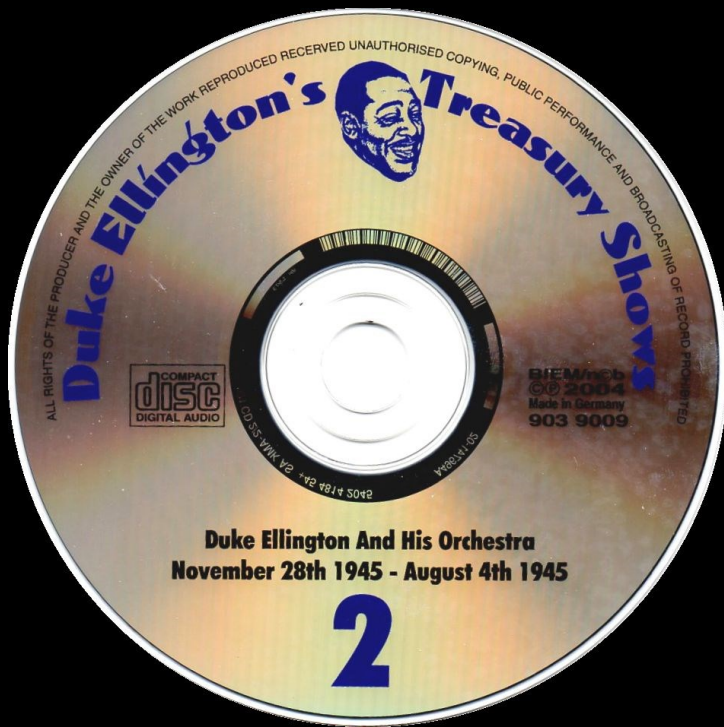
About The Treasury Shows

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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D.E.T.S. DUKE ELLINGTON THE TREASURY SHOWS, VOL. 9 903 9009

DUKE ELLINGTON

THE TREASURY SHOWS VOLUME 9

CD 1

1. (Opening Theme) TAKE THE "A" TRAIN
2. TEARDROPS IN THE RAIN
3. FRUSTRATION
4. ELLINGTON BOND PROMO
5. EVERYTHING BUT YOU
6. 9:20 SPECIAL
7. MOON MIST
8. ROCKIN' IN RHYTHM
9. ELLINGTON BOND PROMO
10. EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR into station break
11. (Theme) TAKE THE "A" TRAIN and broadcast return
12. MEDLEY :
 - (a) IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD
 - (b) BLACK BEAUTY
 - (c) SOPHISTICATED LADY
 - (d) CARAVAN
 - (e) SOLITUDE
 - (f) I LET A SONG GO OUT OF MY HEART
13. ELLINGTON BOND PROMO
14. TRUMPET IN SPADES
15. JUST A-SITTIN' AND A-ROCKIN'
16. GO AWAY BLUES
17. ELLINGTON BOND PROMO
18. ONE O'CLOCK JUMP into closing
19. CROSSTOWN
20. THE WONDER OF YOU
21. COTTON TAIL
22. I'M JUST A LUCKY SO AND SO

Total Time : 70:00

CD 2

1. TIME'S A-WASTIN'
2. THREE CENT STOMP
3. LONG, STRONG AND CONSECUTIVE
4. BLUE SKIES
5. EVERYTHING BUT YOU (Into broadcast close)
6. (Opening theme) TAKE THE "A" TRAIN
7. DANCING IN THE DARK
8. DOWNBEAT SHUFFLE
9. ELLINGTON BOND PROMO
10. TONIGHT I SHALL SLEEP
11. ESQUIRE SWANK
12. CREOLE LOVE CALL
13. I MISS YOUR KISS
14. RIFF STACCATO (Into ELLINGTON BOND PROMO followed by station break)
15. (Theme) TAKE THE "A" TRAIN and broadcast return
16. MEDLEY
 - PASSION FLOWER
 - FRANTIC FANTASY
 - AIR CONDITIONED JUNGLE
 - ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET
17. METRONOME ALL OU
18. EVERYTHING BUT YOU and ELLINGTON BOND PROMO
19. SOLID OLD MAN into broadcast close

Total Time : 71:09

Re-issue Produced by Jerry Valburn Digital Master Jack Towers
Booklet notes Dick Zander

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