



**A MUSICAL CONTRIBUTION
BY AMERICA'S BEST
FOR OUR ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS**



**DUKE
ELLINGTON**



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THE V-DISC PROGRAM

At the beginning of World War II, the War department, through the Army Services Forces - Special Services Division, distributed thousands of shellac phonographic records (V DISCS) to Army Forces throughout the world. Shortly after the Army's program started, the U.S. Navy became involved in the program, appointing E.P. DiGiannantonio to run the Navy, Marine and Coast Guard programs.

These historic recordings were the only music recorded during the 1940's American Federation of Musicians (AFM) recording ban. As their contribution to the war effort, AFM President James C. Petrillo, as well as all the movie and recording studios, issued a carte blanche strike clearance to the War Department for the sole purpose of producing and distributing "music from back home" as a morale booster to American troops overseas. This clearance allowed many musical stars, who were under contract to different studios, to perform together for the first, and in some cases, the only time.

Thanks to the thousands of musicians, vocalists, movie and record company executives, and other individuals who contributed their time to this program, more than eight million V DISCS were produced and distributed from 1943 to 1949. Most of the top musical talents of the time, including Frank Sinatra, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Bing Crosby, Fats Waller, Joe Stafford, The Three Suns, Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, and many others, gave freely of their time in special recording sessions held in studios, concert halls, sound stages, military bases, and nightclubs from coast to coast. The sessions occurred at any time of the day or night, based on the availability of the performers. Many of these sessions began at 2:00 A.M. or 3:00 A.M. after nightclub and concert performances.

One problem to overcome in the production and distribution of the V DISCS was the extremely high rate in breakage of the shellac records during trans-shipment. Research in this area eventually led to the development of phonographic record pressings made from a vinylite process which solved the breakage problem. However, use of vinylite was soon prohibited because the material was also used extensively by the military for electrical insulation, life rafts, etc... and was classified for urgent military purposes only. After a lengthy search for noncritical materials, Formvar was discovered. A Canadian polyvinyl acetal resin developed in early 1943, Formvar was not only as flexible as vinylite, it resulted in higher fidelity records which to this day have not deteriorated in sound quality.

V DISCS were shipped to military units around the world on a monthly basis, throughout the life of the program. Each V DISC kit contained 100 Duatone or Microphonic steel needles and 20 records with 40 to 45 tunes.

Approval has been granted to E.P. "Digi" DiGiannantonio, the Navy lieutenant who was in charge of the Navy V DISC program, to publically release the V DISC recordings in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of World War II. For more than four decades, Digi has housed the original V DISCS in his record library awaiting the appropriate time to share these historic recordings with the public.

The sound heard on the V DISC is the unaltered recording of 78 RPM masters. These recordings have not been rechanneled for stereo effect. Even with the most advanced technology, occasional imperfections will be noted by the listener. These imperfections remain as a result of the producer's conviction that historical reissues must strive to duplicate the sound of the original recordings made during this period.

Executive Producer - E.P. "Digi" Giannantonio

Producer - William A. Welch

Re-Mastering By George Ingram and John Eberle
Nashville Record Productions,
469 Chestnut Street
Nashville, TN 37203

Art Work By Final Film
518 Ash Street
Nashville, TN 37203

Special Thanks to David Custis and J.P. Dafal

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DUKE ELLINGTON

DUKE ELLINGTON was born on April 29, 1899 in Washington, D.C. His real name was Edward Kennedy Ellington. Because of his regal demeanor and elegant dress a boyhood friend nicknamed him "Duke."

Duke began studies on the piano at the age of seven. his earliest influences were in ragtime and he was greatly encouraged by Fats Waller. He made his professional debut at seventeen. In 1923 he moved to New York City. He performed at the famous Cotton Club from 1927 to 1931. During this time he experimented with and developed a style which would bring him worldwide recognition.

He became known for his instrumental combinations and jazz arranging that was soon known as the "Ellington" sound.

Some of the Duke's finest are included on this V-DISC. A few are MOOD INDIGO, SOPHISTICATED LADY, DON'T GET AROUND MUCH ANYMORE, FLAMINGO, IN THE SHADE OF THE OLD APPLE TREE, IT DON'T MEAN A THING IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT SWING, I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING BUT LOVE.

Duke worked with some of the best jazz musicians of the era, a few are "Cootie" Williams - Trumpet, Johnny Hodges - Alto Saxophone, Harry Carney - Baritone Saxophone, Sonny Grier - Drums, Ben Webster - Tenor Saxophone, Rex Stewart - Cornet and Ray Nance - Trumpet.

Some of Dukes awards and honors include honorary doctorates from Harvard and Yale Universities and election as the first jazz musician member of the Royal Music Academy in Stockholm.

Duke Died on May 24, 1974 in New York City.



DUKE ELLINGTON #1



COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

1. Ellington Mood 2:54 • 2. Air Conditioned Jungle 2:54 • 3. Sophisticated Lady 2:48 • 4. Azure 2:21 • 5. Black, Brown and Beige (Part 1) 6:43 • 6. Black, Brown and Beige (Part 2) 6:28 • 7. Kissing Bug 3:01 • 8. Carnegie Blues 2:49 • 9. Creole Love Call 4:26 • 10. Dimuendo in Blue 2:22 • 11. Crescendo in Blue 4:00 • 12. Deep South Suite, Part 1 (Magnolias Dripping in Molasses) 6:19 • 13. Deep South Suite, Part 2 (Hearsay or Orson Wells) 4:42 • 14. Deep South Suite, Part 3 (Nobody Was Looking) 2:51 • 15. Deep South Suite, Part 4 (Happy Go Lucky Local) 5:59 • 16. Esquire Swank 4:21 • 17. Flamingo 3:23 • 18. Frantic Fantasy 4:40



DUKE ELLINGTON #2



COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

1. Frankie And Johnny Part 1 4:09 • 2. Frankie And Johnny Part 2 3:10 • 3. Hollywood Hangover 3:36 • 4. I Never Felt This Way Before 3:27 • 5. Live and Love Tonight 2:59 • 6. In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree 5:42 • 7. It Don't Mean a Thing 3:10 • 8. Perfume Suite, Part 1 5:48 • 9. Perfume Suite, Part 2 5:09 • 10. Prelude To A Kiss 2:53 • 11. Ring Dem Bells 3:13 • 12. Take the A Train 2:40 • 13. Sentimental Lady 2:49 • 14. The Mood to be Wooed 5:01 • 15. Things Ain't What They Used to Be 3:18 • 16. Unbooted Character 4:40 • 17. Warm Valley 3:21 • 18. I'm Checkin Out, Goom-bye 1:55 • 19. Tootin' Through the Roof 2:10



DUKE ELLINGTON #3



1. (A) New World A Comin' Part 1 6:12 • 2. (A) New World A Comin' Part 2 6:11 • 3. The Golden Cress 5:09 • 4. Are You Stickin' 3:00 • 5. Don't Get Around Much Anymore 3:16 • 6. Harlem Airshaft 2:55 • 7. Rockabye River 2:47 • 8. Main Stem 2:47 • 9. Ring Dem Bells 2:56 • 10. Perdido 3:06 • 11. New York City Blues 3:08 • 12. Boy Meets Horn 2:57 • 13. I Can't Give You Anything But Love 2:06 • 14. Sunny Side of the Street 4:02 • 15. Caravan 2:46 • 16. In a Sentimental Mood 2:04 • 17. Royal Garden Blues 3:07 • 18. The Mooche 3:07 • 19. Rockin' in Rhythm 2:59 • 20. Sultry Sunset 4:05

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DIGITAL AUDIO

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