

STEREO

# DUKE ELLINGTON

AND HIS ORCHESTRA RECREATING THE BIG HITS OF THE BIG BANDS



ONE O'CLOCK JUMP

COUNT BASIE

TUXEDO JUNCTION

ERSKINE HAWKINS

ARTISTRY IN RHYTHM

STAN KENTON

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

PAUL WHITEMAN

WOODCHOPPER'S BALL

WOODY HERMAN

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

LES BROWN

SMOKE RINGS

GLEN GRAY

WHEN IT'S SLEEPY TIME DOWN SOUTH

LOUIS ARMSTRONG

GOOD-BYE

BENNY GOODMAN

DON'T GET AROUND MUCH ANYMORE

DUKE ELLINGTON

SLEEP, SLEEP, SLEEP

FRED WARING

THE WALTZ YOU SAVED FOR ME

WAYNE KING



WILL BIG BANDS  
EVER COME BACK!  
DUKE ELLINGTON  
And His Orchestra

*reprise:*®

**R 6168**

(10,439)

**SIDE  
1**

1. TUXEDO JUNCTION  
(Hawkins-Johnson-Dash-Feyne)
2. SMOKE RINGS  
(Gifford-Washington)
3. ARTISTRY IN RHYTHM  
(Stanley Kenton)
4. THE WALTZ YOU SAVED FOR ME  
(King-Flindt-Kahn)
5. WOODCHOPPER'S BALL  
(Herman-Bishop)
6. SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY  
(Green-Brown-Homer)
7. WHEN IT'S SLEEPY TIME  
DOWN SOUTH  
(L. Rene'-O. Rene'-C. Muse)

MADE IN U.S.A. • WARNER BROS. RECORDS, INC.  
**MONO**



WILL BIG BANDS  
EVER COME BACK!  
DUKE ELLINGTON  
And His Orchestra

*reprise:*®

**R 6168**

(10,440)

**SIDE  
2**

1. ONE O'CLOCK JUMP  
(Count Basie)
2. GOOD-BYE  
(Gordon Jenkins)
3. SLEEP, SLEEP, SLEEP  
(T. Waring-A. Geibel)
4. RHAPSODY IN BLUE  
(George Gershwin)
5. DON'T GET AROUND  
MUCH ANYMORE  
(Ellington-Russell)

MADE IN U.S.A. • WARNER BROS. RECORDS, INC.  
**MONO**

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington is one of the wonders of our day, and of yesterday and of a couple of days before yesterday.

Hardly a man is now alive, in fact, who can remember a time when the Duke was not surprising and delighting us with music which above all else has refused to be set, pat or predictable.

He proved earlier than anybody else that jazz was not a blind instrument and he has kept proving it over and over again down the length of better than four decades. The Ellington Band—the Budapest String Quartet of four-beat—remains the most subtle and supple aggregation jazz has produced. Totting up the honors for collective creativity, the Ellingtonians walk away with it. There aren't even any second or third place finishers. The group can shape pastoral tonalities or shake the walls, and is as inventive as \*\*\*\* as at ppp.

Once upon a time there was a Big Band Era. Ellington pre-dated it, shaped it, and now has outlasted it. The question asked by the present album title—Will big bands ever come back?—has been asked regularly ever since the era ended in about 1946. The answer has usually been a hopeful "Yes" (because it was a glorious era, musically) but a very tentative "Yes" (because the economics are still unhelpful).

The question, that is, is still open. And if anyone except Duke Ellington were involved in the present operation, this album would be strictly an exercise in nostalgia, a trip down Memory Lane to the days when the 12 bands remembered here virtually were popular music.

But these are not note-for-note recreations of the originals that's been done before. These are Ellington re-interpretations of tunes made famous by his own and 11 other bands. On the grounds that Ellington could not make an uninteresting album of Strauss waltzes, Sousa marches, or Etruscan burial laments, this is an interesting album, because it is Ellington's.

It is, to me, an intriguing album because of the material involved and because of the constantly unexpected and unpredictable ways in which Ellington and the orchestra approach the tunes. The album becomes fuller of imaginative surprises than an early Hitchcock movie. What the Duke does

is essentially to create eleven new Ellington originals.

I mean, here is Wayne King's lovely "The Waltz You Saved for Me." It is still lovely, to say the least, but it is no longer even a jazz waltz. It swings very tastily indeed and becomes a framework for some first-rate trumpet and clarinet solo work. (Throughout the album, as a matter of fact, it's the quality of the solos even more than the ensemble riffing of the saxes and brasses that makes you realize all over again how lucky you were to be discovering music in the mid-'30s.)

Here, too, is "Woodchopper's Ball," the rousing number by Woody Herman (who is swinging again after some quiet years... maybe the bands will come back). Now, after a lovely lead-in by the Duke himself, you discover a violin, first pizzicato and then double-stopped, taking you back to the Quintet of the Hot Club of France.

Kenton's "Artistry in Rhythm" becomes something wholly new, an intricately quiet study for guitar and violin. Les Brown's "Sentimental Journey" always had its hints of melancholy. In route to Ellingtonland, it turns distinctly minor, a much more thoughtful journey all the way.

Turning the opening clarinet cadenza of "Rhapsody in Blue" over to the tenor sax does more than lower the register. It establishes that whatever you thought, you're in unfamiliar country. Or, perhaps, in familiar country seen with a totally fresh eye. Wherever you are, it's fine.

Fred Waring might seem to be the odd man out in the group—until you hear the wild and swinging spin the Ellington group put on the Waring theme, "Sleep, Sleep, Sleep." It will never induce sleep.

But so it goes through 12 tracks. Even the band's own "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" gets looked at again and comes up with a new underlying rhythm and what I can only call a new delicacy.

One way or another, the album is a tour de force of the kind of thorough-going musicianship, singly and collectively, you've come to expect from Ellington & Co. long since. And you don't have to say "Remember when?" It is here and now.

CHARLES CHAMPLIN  
Entertainment Editor, Los Angeles Times

## WILL BIG BANDS EVER COME BACK? New Interpretations of Great Hits by Big Bands

# Duke Ellington AND HIS ORCHESTRA

SIDE ONE

ERIKINE HARRISON

**Tuxedo Junction** 3:27 ✓

SLEN GRAY'S

**Smoke Rings** 3:11

STEVE HORTON'S

**Artistry in Rhythm** 3:17

WAYNE KING'S

**The Waltz You Saved For Me** 3:27

WOODY HERMAN'S

**Woodchopper's Ball** 3:11

LES BROWN'S

**Sentimental Journey** 3:23

LESLIE ARNSTON'S

**When It's Sleepy Time Down South** 3:17

SIDE TWO

COUNT BASIE'S

**One O'clock Jump** 3:26

BOBBY COCHRAN'S

**Goodbye** 3:04

FRED WARING'S

**Sleep, Sleep, Sleep** 3:41

PAUL WHITEMAN'S

**Rhapsody In Blue** 4:17

DUKE ELLINGTON'S

**Don't Get Around Much Anymore** 3:48

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Art Direction: Ed Thrasher

DUKE ELLINGTON TODAY... ON REPRIZE RECORDS



AFRO DISCO

THE SYMPHONIC ELLINGTON ELLINGTON '63

Reprize Album 5122