

Johnny Hodges. Ellington made hundreds of recordings with his bands, appeared in films and on radio, and toured Europe on two occasions in the 1930s.

It was Ellington's sense of musical drama that made him stand out. His blend of melodies, rhythms and subtle sonic movements gave audiences a new experience—complex yet accessible jazz that made the heart swing. Ellington's autobiography, *Music Is My Mistress*, was published in 1973. Ellington earned 12 Grammy awards from 1959 to 2000, nine while he was alive.

At the age of 19, Ellington married Edna Thompson, who had been his girlfriend since high school, and soon after their marriage, she gave birth to their only child, Mercer Kennedy Ellington.

On May 24, 1974, at the age of 75, Ellington died of lung cancer and pneumonia. His last words were, "Music is how I live, why I live and how I will be remembered." More than 12,000 people attended his funeral. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York City.



Duke Ellington

Blues In Orbit

Blues in Orbit captures the essence of a late-night recording date that was as much a loose jam as a formal studio date, balancing the spontaneity of the former and the technical polish of the latter. Ellington and company were just back from a European tour when the bulk of this album was recorded at one after-midnight session in New York on December 2, 1959 -- the arrangements had to be hastily written out when the copyist failed to appear for the gig. So on the one hand, the band was kicking back with these shorter pieces; on the other, the group was also improvising freely and intensely at various points. The title track, recorded more than a year before most of the rest, is a slow blues that puts Ellington's piano into a call-and-response setting with the horns, with Ellington getting in the last word. "Villes Ville Is the Place, Man" is a bracing, beat-driven jaunt, highlighted by solos featuring Ray Nance, Harry Carney, and Johnny Hodges on trumpet, baritone sax, and alto, respectively. "Three J's Blues" shows off composer Jimmy Hamilton playing some earthy tenor sax in a swinging, exuberant blues setting. "Smada" features Billy Strayhorn on piano and Johnny Hodges on alto, in a stirring dance number, and "Pie Eye's Blues" is a hot studio improvisation featuring Ray Nance and Jimmy Hamilton trading three solos each.

A major figure in the history of jazz music, Duke Ellington's career spanned more than half a century, during which time he composed thousands of songs for the stage, screen and contemporary songbook. He created one of the most distinctive ensemble sounds in Western music and continued to play what he called "American Music" until shortly before his death in 1974.

Born on April 29, 1899, Ellington was raised by two talented, musical parents in a middle-class neighborhood of Washington, D.C. At the age of seven, he began studying piano and earned the nickname "Duke" for his gentlemanly ways. Inspired by his job as a soda jerk, he wrote his first composition, "Soda Fountain Rag," at the age of 15. Despite being awarded an art scholarship to the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, Ellington followed his passion for ragtime and began to play professionally at age 17.

In the 1920s, Ellington performed in Broadway nightclubs as the bandleader of a sextet, a group which in time grew to a 10-piece ensemble. Ellington sought out musicians with unique playing styles, such as Bubber Miley, who used a plunger to make the "wa-wa" sound, and Joe Nanton, who gave the world his trombone "growl." At various times, his ensemble included the trumpeter Cootie Williams, cornetist Rex Stewart and alto saxophonist

Duke Ellington

Blues In Orbit

- 1 Blues In Orbit 2:25
- 2 Track 360 2:03
- 3 Villes Ville Is The Place, Man 2:31
- 4 Brown Penny 3:00
- 5 Three J's Blues 2:51
- 6 Smada 2:36
- 7 Pie Eye's Blues 3:26
- 8 C Jam Blues 4:50
- 9 Sweet & Pungent 4:01
- 10 In A Mellotone 2:40
- 11 Sentimental Lady 3:58
- 12 Blues In Blueprint 3:37
- 13 The Swingers Get The Blues, Too 3:08
- 14 The Swinger's Jump 3:51

Alto Saxophone – Bill Graham, Johnny Hodges, Russell Procope

Baritone Saxophone – Harry Carney Bass – Jimmy Woode

Bass Clarinet – Harry Carney Clarinet – Jimmy Hamilton, Russell Procope

Drums – Jimmy Johnson, Sam Woodyard Euphonium [Baritone Horn] – Matthew Gee

Piano – Billy Strayhorn, Duke Ellington Tenor Saxophone – Jimmy Hamilton, Paul Gonsalves

Trombone – Booty Wood, Britt Woodman, John Sanders, Matthew Gee, Quentin Jackson

Trumpet – Cat Anderson, Clark Terry, Shorty Baker, Ray Nance Violin – Ray Nance Recording

Info: Recorded by Columbia 1958 -1959 Engineers – Fred Plaut & Lowell Frank Producers:

Irving Townsend tracks: 1,2 & Teo Macero - tracks: 3 to 14



For more info e-mail us:
admin@highdeftapetransfers.com
or visit our website:
www.highdeftapetransfers.com