

THE DUKE ELLINGTON INITIATIVE

Corresponding to Dana Paul Perna Power Hour Show -
Episodes 38, 39, and 40, the latter comprised entirely of "live" performances

<http://mixlr.com/moog1-radio/showreel/dpp-38>

<http://mixlr.com/moog1-radio/showreel/dpp-39>

<http://mixlr.com/moog1-radio/showreel/dpp-40>

Apart from Perna's commentary, which he provides as host of the program, the intention of this initiative is to reveal the glories of Duke Ellington's music through performances by his renowned all-star orchestra, as well as interpreted by other performers, ranging from songs to instrumental selections. With that in mind, the listener is provided as having a personal encounter with this music in a way they may not have enjoyed previously.

Encouraged for use by educators from all areas of the education spectrum - from elementary, right up to college and adult levels, these audio episodes are available for:

- a) use in the classroom;
- b) to underscore study within subjects related to Ellington's period of history;
- c) for use in private studios;
- d) to supply additional material for discussions to ensue based on the contents of them.

Personal exploration and study by the individual listener is highly encouraged.

In addition to this, the following questions have been supplied as a means of opening pathways toward creative, informative, enlightening, and engaging discussions as to the value and relevancy of Ellington's music in our current time. In order to facilitate these discussions, the following questions may be utilized as one sees fit:

- 1) What elements do you hear in Ellington's music, or that are comprised within his music's sonic profile?
- 2) In your opinion, does Ellington's music constitute a "Fusion", or a "Mash-up", or do you feel that it is wholly "Unique", and/or "singular" unto itself?
- 3) Based on the music you have heard over these three episodes, discuss those performances that were your favorite, as opposed to those you disliked, and

why? Identification of the performers will prove most important towards your response.

4) What observations can you conclude from having actually heard Ellington perform some of his own music; did you prefer his versions of his own work, or that by others? Be specific as to what your tastes were, as well as on what basis your decision(s) were determined by.

5) On a personal base-level, in listening to this music, how did you engage with it? Did you find it entertaining?; did it elicit any particular imagery?; did you find it as being melodious?; did you find it to be inspirational?; did it measure up to your expectations, or did you have any expectations to begin with? Explanation of your responses will prove additionally insightful to you personally.

6) Do you feel that Ellington's music continues to communicate, whether to you specifically, or to anyone, and what, specifically, did his work communicate to you?

7) Was this the first time you have heard Ellington's music within any context? Did it provide any insights as to his music, or musicianship - how so, and why?

Born in Washington D.C. on April 29, 1899, died in New York City on May 24, 1974, **Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington** became a legendary American composer, pianist, and leader of a jazz orchestra that bore his name, which he led in one form or another from 1923 until his death over a career spanning more than fifty years. Overall, it is believed that Ellington composed some 2,000 works. Interested parties may wish to seek out an additional selection among those offerings via the internet, such as the utilization of YouTube, in their discovery process. Additionally, those most closely associated with him were musicians and singers. Identification of the following names and related periods of history, by no means a complete list, will increase ones' appreciation, enjoyment and comprehension of this Master's works:

Mercer Ellington	Billy Strayhorn	Sonny Greer	Louis Bellson	
Johnny Hodges	Ben Webster	Herb Jeffries	Al Hibbler	
Ivie Anderson	Irving Mills	Cootie Williams	Paul Gonsalves	
"Cat" Anderson	Ray Nance	George Wein	Louis Armstrong	
Dr. Donald Shirley	Billie Holiday	The Cotton Club	Percy Grainger	
Clark Terry	Juan Tizol	Peggy Lee	Art Tatum	Lena Horne
Frankie Laine	Ella Fitzgerald	"The Charleston"	Newport Jazz Festival	
Eubie Blake	Carnegie Hall	"Shuffle Along"	The Harlem Renaissance	

