

THE DUKE ELLINGTON SOCIETY CHAPTER #90

P.O. BOX 29587 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017-0787

Terrell A. Allen, President
(202) 529-5972

Jack H. Towers, Treasurer
(301) 559-4126

January 25, 1990

Happy Springtime, Ellingtonian!

You'll pardon us for being a bit confused by this weather. It seems like it's time for our annual "swing-into-spring" session but, no, that's Pat Willard's program for April and Nat Kinnear is our host for the February 3rd get-together. It's still winter and, maybe, by the time you get this it will be back to sub-zero temperatures. I hope not.

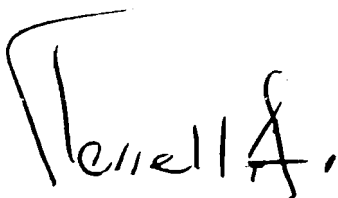
Anyway, Nat is bringing his sweet Kitty with him and a fabulous presentation of the different European concepts of Ellingtoniana.

If you missed Jehangir Dalal's show you missed a good one. His program was excellent (as are all of them) and we heard some Ducal items that were entirely new to us. There's a moral here somewhere, if I can find it. All I can say is - don't miss any of these good things - there are more and more and more goodies to be discovered and enjoyed.

Just time for a soft-pitch for dues. We need them. To the newcomers it's \$25.00 per annum for singles and \$40.00 a couple. Send your checks or money orders directly to our treasurer, Jack Towers, 1417 Jefferson Street, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

So - let's greet Nat and Kitty on February 3rd at Omega House, 13th and Harvard Street, N.W. We start exactly at 8:30 P.M.

Love you,



TERRELL ALLEN

P.S. Wasn't Betty Dennis' Arroz con Pollo delicious? Thank you again, sweet Betty.

N.B. Here's an unsolicited endorsement. I highly recommend Miles Davis' auto-biog. I wouldn't read this as a bedtime story to my maiden aunt or to my grandbabies 'cause Miles' language is a bit macho, shall we say, but if you love The Music, you'll love this book. Duke is mentioned only peripherally, but with great love and respect. Enjoy, enjoy.

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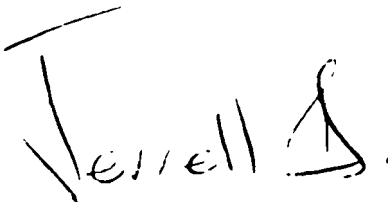
February 23, 1990

Hi, friend,

We have a very special treat planned for you at our next meeting. Gwen Redding, host of "Caravan" on Jazz 90 f.m. WDCU, will be our host. She is a Hodges & Strayhorn expert and her program will center on these two Ellington notables. I remember the last time one of our ladies hosted a program for Chapter #90 -- the joint was jammed! Those who were a little late had to stand during the entire program. Just a hint -- this show promises to be bigger and you would do well to be punctual. This is on March 3rd, Saturday evening, 8:30 P.M., at Omega House, 13th and Harvard Street, N.W. Bring your friends. Gwen is bringing hers, so space will be at a premium.

That's all for now. See you at the meeting.

Madly,



TERRELL A. ALLEN

P.S. Special to The Contingent - Don't miss this one. For more reasons than one this is going to be fabulous!

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March 30, 1990

Hi friend:

I would like to strongly urge all Chapter #90 Ellingtonians and their friends to attend a very special "Swing into Spring" session hosted by Patricia Willard. It is our first ever video presentation and it is unique in that Pat has tapes of Duke and the Orchestra that haven't been viewed by the general public and most likely won't be in the foreseeable future. Besides all that we'll have a chance to hear Pat's reminiscences about her long tenure as P.R. person for Ellington in the Fifties and Sixties. This is another of those Don't Miss meetings on April 7th at Omega House, 13th and Harvard St., N.W. We start promptly at 8:30 P.M., so don't be late.

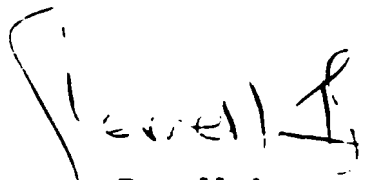
We have big doings planned for the month of April, especially for the Duke's birthday, April 29th, but we'll discuss these things in depth at our meeting.

You can tune in April 4th, Channel 32, at 8:00 P.M. for a special Ellington salute. Give it a listen -- you'll enjoy it.

Have you sent in your dues yet? This is the last call before our nominating committee report and if you are not paid up you won't be able to vote for the officers of your choice.

So, until April 7th and our very special program.

Love you,



Terrell A.

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April 24, 1990

Happy Springtime, Ellingtonian:

This little note is just a gentle reminder -- not that you need one -- of the important activities planned for this weekend. We discussed these things in some depth at our last meeting, so fabulously hosted by Patricia Willard, but there are a few members who missed the announcements.

Firstly, on Saturday, April 28, at 11:00 A.M., we're invited to a dedication ceremony at 2728 Sherman Avenue, N.W. This is one of the residences that Duke shared with his wife Edna and their infant son Mercer between the years 1919-1922. This will be a media event and we want as large a Chapter representation as possible.

On Sunday, April 29th, at 1:00 P.M., we're celebrating the Duke's natal day at the new Duke Ellington Building, 2129 Ward Place, N.W. This is another super media presentation with entertainment (Duke's music) provided by the Ellington School of The Arts Jazz Ensemble directed by David Yarborough. There will be comments by Martis Davis, principal of The Ellington School and by Calvin W. Rolark, editor of The Washington Informer and president of the United Black Fund. Your lame-duck president will have a few words to say (very few) and the whole glorious affair will be hosted by Washington, D.C.'s premier radio personality, Felix Grant. This is a must-be-there event for Chapter #90 constituents, so please meet me there.

Special surprise presenter for our May 5th meeting -- Fauné, of WDCU Jazz 90 f.m. Need I say more? You've loved her madly since Ellington '83 and you'll have a chance to meet and thank her personally for her dedication to the good sounds of Jazz, the only real American classical music.

So until May 5th at Omega House, 13th and Harvard St., N.W., 8:30 P.M. (promptly).

Love,



TERRELL A.

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May 24, 1990

Hi, Music Lover:

By the time you get this memo our delegation (unpaid) to Ellington '90 in Ottawa, Ontario, will have returned brimful of interesting information, pleasant memories, etc., that they are more than willing to share with all of us Chapter #90 members who weren't able to attend. Jack Towers, the tacit chairman of the delegation, will play some of the tapes, both musical and otherwise, at our June 2nd meeting which incidentally will be our last session for the '89 - '90 season. We won't meet formally any more until this fall - October 6th, to be exact, at which time the fabulous Yale Lewis, D.J. and personality extraordinaire, will be our host. More about that later, though. Just think about and plan to attend our June get-to-gether at Omega House. We've a lot of things to discuss, including our annual picnic at Ted and Marian Shell's Lake Caroline estate, and a report from the nominating committee and other important business too numerous and varied to discuss here.

So meet and greet me at the frat house on June 2nd at 13th and Harvard St., N.W. We'll have reports from all the attendees of Ellington '90, including Jack and Betty Dennis, Patricia Willard, Ed Morris, and on and on ad infinitum.

Until then.

Love you,

Terrell A. Allen

Hi - sorry I had to miss you and
Willis but Gene hasn't been too well
so I stayed home - Hope to see you
some day soon -

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June 19, 1990

Hi, Ellingtonian:

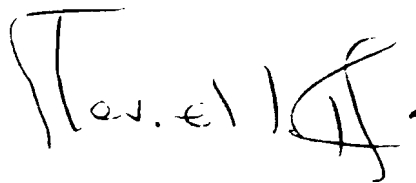
We promised at our last session to remind you of our annual picnic at Ted and Marian Shell's Lake Caroline place on Wednesday, July 4th. Chapter #90 members and their guests are invited -- just call -- let me know how many invitees you're bringing so we can be fully prepared. The Chapter is furnishing "drinkables" and charcoal, etc., for the grill so if you want to barbecue steaks, chicken, franks, we'll have the coals nice and hot for you. Bring your own lunch and we ask that you bring a pot of something or a casserole for the communal table. Maybe a cake or a pie if you have the desire. Don't forget beach togs if you want to swim or water ski or wade or whatever. Just come prepared to enjoy yourself on the glorious Fourth!

Here are the directions -- go straight down 95 South to the Ladysmith, Virginia, exit (about 70 miles), turn right off the exit ramp and keep right to the first stoplight -- Route 1. Turn left at the light and drive a mile or two to the Lake Caroline entrance. The attendants will direct you to the Shell house.

One last word -- leave home early before the holiday traffic clogs up the highway which usually happens around noonish.

So -- see you on the Fourth. Drive carefully and God Bless.

Love,



TERRELL A.

Hi -- sorry I missed the Conference & missed seeing you but I'll try to make California -- thanks for the tapes.

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Joe T.H.

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Greetings, Ellingtonians,

Welcome to a new season of good music and congenial company.

At our June 1990 meeting the following officers were elected for the year 1990-1991:

President	Terrell Allen
Vice-President	Theodore Shell
Treasurer	Jack Towers
Secretary	Elizabeth Dennis
Public Relations	

Washington, D.C.	Joe Godfrey and Dave Rossen
Baltimore, Md.	Levy Tyson

Business Meeting

This business meeting is for paid-up members only.

Place: 913 Hamilton Street, N.E.
Date: September 30, 1990 (Friday)
Time: 7:30 P.M.
Agenda:

Recognition of Felix Grant
Treasurer's Report- Funding available for activities
Membership- Recruiting new members; annual dues; privileges of membership
Proposals to various organizations for financial support
Participation in activities of various organizations having similar interests
Programs related to Duke Ellington School
Proposal for production of video tape of Oldham Conference
Other miscellaneous business

Monthly Meeting

Our October 6th, 1990 meeting will be hosted by Mac Grimmer. Mac is our newest member, and he and his wife, Angela are long-time admirers of Ellington. Mac will honor us with some of the gems of his fine collection. Come out and welcome our two newest members.

We look forward to a full year of great listening and good times. Please bring a friend or two--let's spread the word about Duke!

Love you madly,

Terrell A. Allen

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Ellingtonians,

Our November Meeting on Saturday, November 3, 1990, will be held as usual at the Omega Fraternity House at 13th and Harvard Streets, N.W. at 8:30 P.M.

The well known musicologist, radio personality and lecturer on jazz, Mr. Yale Lewis will be our host. Yale has been on the jazz scene for many years, and has been a staunch advocate of the Ellington mystic.

You don't want to miss this opportunity to hear Yale's presentation. Come early and bring a friend.

Sincerely,



Terrell Allen, President

EAD

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November 18, 1990

Happy Thanksgiving, Music Lover:

We have so much to discuss and so little time and so little space -- so, we do the best we can. On December 1st at Omega House, 13th and Harvard St., N.W., we'll really enjoy the opportunity to hear the program we scheduled last month by the erudite and urbane D.J. extraordinaire, Yale Lewis. Through technical difficulties and circumstances well beyond our control we were unable to have our meeting on November 5th for which we humbly apologize and assure you that it will never happen again.

Having said that and placing that unpleasantness well behind us we'll go on to plan and prepare for better things in the near future. But we must have your dues. Yes, it's that time again and we'd like to get all of our financial arrangements and budget planning completed by the middle of January. Agreed?

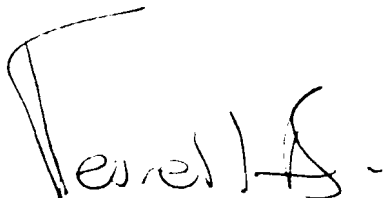
We still have Ellington '89 "artifacts" -- memorabilia -- plates, mugs, badges, etc., and we would like to dispose of them. We'll let you have them at cost and you can give them to friends or the boys and girls in the Gulf for Christmas gifts!

So meet me at Omega House on time and I'll give you a first-hand report on the Ellington Sacred Concert directed by Dr. Aaron Bell and hosted by the Black American Heritage foundation November 11 in St. Albans, N.Y.C. Patricia Willard was eloquent in her presentation of the facts behind the first Ellington Sacred Concert. Tell you all about it at session time.

For the nonce, then.

Love you

Madly



TERRELL A.

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December 21, 1990

God rest ye merry, Gentlemen and Gentleladies.

It's time for celebration again and celebrate we will on January 5th with over-laden groaning board, overflowing wassail bowl and eggnog and good music to spare. All of these happenings will be at 913 Hamilton Street, N.E. and not at the frat house so don't go wandering over there by mistake looking for the yuletide fun and games. Again, it's at the president's humble abode. What we lack in spaciousness will be more than made up by love and good cheer!!

Incidentally, our secretary, Betty Dennis, has agreed (by my special request) to prepare a big pot full of Arroz con Pollo (one of her many specialties) and we'll have other goodies too numerous to contemplate. If you'd like to add one of your own exotic dishes to our menu feel free to do so. We'll worry about diets after the party.

One other little detail - this get-together is strictly for Ellingtonians and their guests. We would like to hear from you if you plan to attend or have any questions. Give me a ring. My phone number is on the masthead.

We'll start around 8 P.M. and we have a mystery host who's flying down from New York to play Strayhorn and Ellington on my out-of-tune piano. This is very special so try to be here on time. As is our annual custom, this gathering is for all tried and true Ellingtonians and their guests.

Lastly, a special yuletide greeting to some very special people.
Merry Xmas to:

The Contingent. Thanks for being so consistent. What would we have done without you?

The New Yorkers, especially Mo and Jo Hodara, one of God's loveliest couples.

Sweet Helen Ennico whom I adore with a passion.

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Our foreign correspondents, Elaine Norsworthy and Sjeff and Millia Hoefsmit. Have a happy one, folks.

José "Curly" Godfrey, our hardworking PR person and Jack Towers who holds on tightly and rightly to our lean resources.

Ted and Marian Shell who've been there for us through doom and gloom, thick and thin, summer and harvest time. God bless you.

Patricia Willard who adds a great deal of credibility to our Chapter.

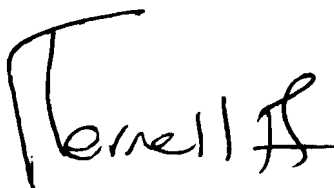
Hard-working Bob Reny, Ed Morris and Ann Ledgister without whom Ellington '89 would have been impossible.

Our favorite DJs, Rob Bamberger from WAMU, Rusty, Bill McLaurin, Felix Grant (the Dean), Faunee, Gwen of WDCU. Thank you all for those fabulous sounds. Lord love you all.

To all the rest -- (I'm running out of time and space) -- you know I love you madly and appreciate all you've done to keep our Chapter going.

Have a Merry, Merry Xmas and I'll see you on the 5th.

Good bye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrell A. Allen". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a flourish at the end.

TERRELL A. ALLEN