

THE DUKE ELLINGTON SOCIETY CHAPTER #90

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

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

Jack Towers, Treasurer
(301) 559-4126

January 22, 1992

Apologies to all Chapter #90 constituents:

You were looking forward to an evening of fun, games and good music on January 4th, but the bad-flu fairy ruled otherwise and we are, just now, still trying to get over the enervating side effects. So bear with us, please, a little longer. We'll be 90% real soon, I promise.

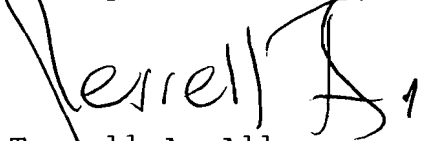
Jack Towers is our host for our February 1st session at Omega House, 13th and Harvard Streets, N.W. We'll start as per usual at 8:30 p.m., exactly! Jack has something special that he says is flu-proof. 😊 So come out and give a listen.

It's dues time again. I won't belabor the point - only that some (who shall be nameless) were berated last year for being tardy with their much-needed funds will LEAD THE WAY this year and hope that everyone will follow. Thank you.

This is all for now - just meet me at the meeting. I have private and personal messages for certain members like Dalal, Morris, Spottswood and Shell, among others that I will discuss with them over the phone.

Thanks for being understanding.

Love you all madly,



Terrell A. Allen

P.S. Dues are \$25 annually for singles and \$40 for couples.
You never had it so good. T.A.A.

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February 25, 1992

Greetings, Music Lover:

You've heard by now, of course, of the untimely passing of our dear friend and long-time chapter member, Joe "Curly" Godfrey on February 7th. We mourn with his family and countless friends from all over the world and when we find out something definite about funeral arrangements, we'll let you know, post-haste.

On the brighter side - our March 7th session will be hosted by Nat Kinnear and should be of great interest to all Ellingtonians who are fascinated by the whole Ellington-Strayhorn mystique. How can we begin to understand the closeness of the two giant musical intellects that worked together to produce such masterworks as the Sacred Concerts, the Liberian and Controversial suites, and other major and minor beauties like the Nutcracker, Golden Broom... Rain Check and Johnny Come-Lately? Nat will endeavor to answer this question with a raft of previously un-released recordings by Strays. We will also find out through Nat's research who Billy's pre-Ellington influences were.

I don't think you should miss this meeting. If you love Duke's and Strayhorn's musical collaboration, you will be there, and promptly at 8:30 p.m. The address is as always 13th and Harvard Streets, N.W. and we will start on time. B.A.H.F.*

'Til then -

Madly,

Terrell A. Allen

*Bring a hip friend



Addendum -
How about dues, all you late payers? we need your funds now - please
T.A.A.

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March 26, 1992

Memo to one and all - especially Ellingtonians and their loved ones:

Dr. Theodore Augustus Shell is our host for our April 4th session and it will be to your distinct advantage to attend. Our Ted has rounded up something very special - an unreleased recording of a Carnegie Hall concert featuring Ellington and Strayhorn playing unaccompanied duets. Plus, some snippets from Duke's last appearance in the District which I believe was in late 1973. On some numbers, the Duke directed the orchestra while Jaki Byard sat in on piano. This should be of more than casual interest to you as it is to me because I missed the show. Later Duke made the rounds of various public schools in the area with Marian McPartland and I was scheduled to go with them, but I missed that also. Ellington was very ill at the time and it was painful for him to play the piano, but he didn't disappoint the children who thronged the assembly halls to hear the legendary Duke.

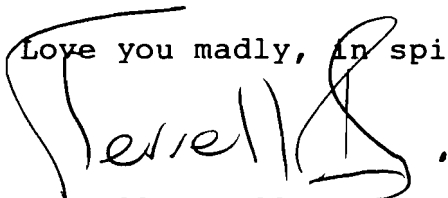
Speaking about Strayhorn, those of you who missed Nat Kinnear's program dedicated to Strays have only yourselves to blame. It was very, very good, in fact there was comment afterwards that it was one of the best meetings that we've had.

Now for all of you "High Flyers" who are headed for Denmark while letting your dues go unpaid, shame, shame. The direst of punishments await you on return to our hallowed shores. You won't be able to imagine the terrible things I have in store for you. You can avoid all this if you take care of your delinquencies immediately. Your sins will be exculpated and forgiven and you'll be welcomed back into the fold with open arms, like the prodigal son.

In the meantime - don't forget Ted's meeting at the frat house at 13th and Harvard Streets, N.W. on Saturday evening, April 4th at 8:30 p.m.

Until then,

Love you madly, in spite of yourself



Terrell A. Allen

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April 24, 1992

Hi Ellingtonian:

Just got back from my alumni reunion in Huntsville, Alabama to learn of the passing of Martin Williams, that great man of letters and prime observer of the jazz scene. I own just about all of his books and I'm sorry that I didn't get his autograph on his latest volume. I understand he had another work in progress that will be published later this year. We await this event with great anticipation.

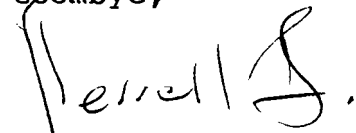
Speaking about Huntsville, I never learned to adjust my rented-car radio from its pre-set programming, so all I heard was country and western music which was a complete "bug". It was so nice to get back home where there's so much good stuff on the air-waves. I had a good ol' nostalgic time with old friends and classmates, but I'm glad to be back home!!

And I'll be glad to meet with you-all again on May 2nd at Omega House, 13th and Harvard Streets, N.W. where our chapter session will be hosted by the witty, urbane and erudite Mac Grimmer. He's going to share some previously unreleased Wisconsin concerts by the full Ellington Orchestra, plus some other goodies too numerous to notate. Just come on out and give a listen.

Remember to be punctual. We start exactly at 8:30 p.m. and you wont want to miss any of Mac's program.

So until session time May 2nd

Goombye,



TERRELL A. ALLEN

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May 26, 1992

Greetings and Hail and Farewell to our World-travellers,

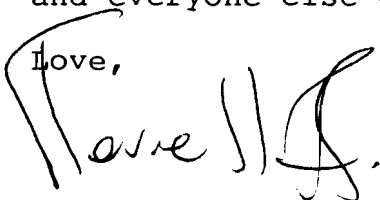
From those of us who are left, bravely fighting tears as you leave for Copenhagen, our best wishes for a beautiful and safe trip. Have a good time and bring us a full report with all the documentation you can carry. Our best regards to all our friends in Denmark. Good speed and Godspeed and hurry home. We'll try to keep things moving along until you return.

Speaking about reports - Jack Towers is hurrying back from the continent in time to host our June 6th meeting with audio-tapes and pictures, etc. and other memorabilia from Ellington '92. This will be our last meeting before summer vacation and knowing Jack it will be a good session - one that you won't want to miss. The place is, as usual, Omega House at 13th and Harvard Streets, N.W. with plenty of safe parking diagonally across the street. We start promptly on time at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6th. Please honor us with your presence.

I'm sure you received a copy of the Smithsonian flyer promoting their summer program on Jazz featuring the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra which is a swinging group. The program is fabulous as is the orchestra, co-led by Gunther Schuller and David Baker. Genie and I went the other night for the premiere and the band wailed mightily with the music and the arrangements of Ellington, Basie, Chick Webb and (joy, joy) Jimmie Lunceford, among others. I saw some of our Chapter members there but not enough of you attended. Believe me, the music is good and the price is right. 😊

So until meeting time, God bless and to Ted and Marian, Teddy and Geneva, Mac and Angela, Patricia, G. Leo, Jack and Rhoda and everyone else enjoy and hurry back.

Love,



TERRELL A. ALLEN

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