

THE DUKE ELLINGTON SOCIETY, CHAPTER 90

P.O. BOX 15591 . WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003-0787

NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 1997

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**Festival Will Culminate
Ellington Youth Project Year**

Contributed by Luvenia George

The curtain goes up on the Sixth Annual Duke Ellington Youth Festival at 6 pm on April 24 at the University of the District of Columbia auditorium.

Combined talents of District of Columbia junior and senior high students will be on display under the direction of the following teachers: Senior High Jazz Band, Davey Yarborough; Junior High Band, Ed Anderson; Senior High Choir, Samuel Bonds; Junior High Choir, Patricia Braswell; and dance, Peter Romero. Youngsters from 23 schools, from each ward in the city, will be represented.

An art exhibit of student work, a component of the Festival, will run in Taylor Gallery, Smithsonian's National Museum of American History (NMAH) from April 26 to June 2. Students will read their poetry-drama compositions at noon, Friday, April 25 in Carmichael Auditorium, NMAH.

The Festival is the culminating event of the curriculum study of Ellington's life and music taught in the public schools each year. Sponsored by the Smithsonian's Program in African American Culture directed by Niani Kilkenny, the Project, coordinated by Luvenia George, is a collaborative outreach of the Smithsonian and DC Public Schools.

We urge all members of the Ellington Society to attend the Festival on April 24, and be sure to visit the Art Exhibit. Let's encourage our young people as they discover the wonder and beauty of Ellington's music!

Should Our Publication...

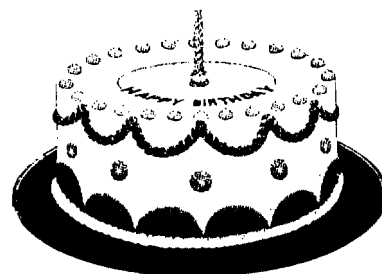
...have a title other than simply *Newsletter*? Let us know what you think. And if you are in favor of a title, suggest one or more.

**April Program to Return
To the Beginning --**

by Mac Grimmer, Program Coordinator

-- Of the Ellington Era, that is. Ben Pubols will take us back there, specifically, to "Bubber, Barney and Toby." That's the title of his program, meaning Miley, Bigard and Hardwick, of course, and Ben has challenged us to figure out the connection among the three that is the basis of his program. He will reveal it himself at our **Saturday, April 5** meeting, at our regular meeting place, the **Grace Lutheran Church, at 16th & Varnum Streets, NW**. Ben has made early Ellingtonia his specialty, and another fascinating and informative evening is in store. The time is **8 PM**. Don't be late!

**As in Previous Years, on
April 29**



Do Something Creative!

ELLINGTON '97
MAY 22-26  **LEEDS ENGLAND**
11 Grosvenor Mount Leeds LS6 2DX England
Telephone / Fax: +44 (0)113 275 9633

The Air Force Band at Constitution Hall

Review by Theodore A. Shell

For those music lovers, especially Duke Ellington aficionados, who missed the afternoon concert at Constitution Hall on Sunday, February 9, what a loss! The outfit gave a concert of Ellington music to a somewhat less than full house. The Air Force Band is giving a series of nine concerts this year, and this was the kickoff. The musicianship was impeccable and those of us who may have heard them through the years will agree that they should be heard more. The musicians are members of the U.S. Air Force on active duty and are a permanent fixture in the service.

The Airmen of Note started with a rousing rendition of Strayhorn's "Take the A-Train," and it sounded like one of the original arrangements of the Duke's orchestra. Next was "Concerto for Cootie," with Sgt. Leahy doing the Cootie solo with good use of the mute; it was followed by "Conga Brava" with solos by Sgts. Gary Hall on trombone and Saul Miller on tenor. A well arranged "Sophisticated Lady" featured Sgt. Joe Eckert doing justice to the Johnny Hodges alto solo. The last rendition before intermission was a smooth, elongated version of "Rockin' in Rhythm" that showcased lovely solos by Sgts. Eckert on clarinet and Haering on trumpet.

For the next set the Airmen of Note was augmented by the Air Force Jazz Orchestra. Although the overall aggregation is officially called the U.S. Air Force Band, it is comprised of instrumentation of a full symphony orchestra with a full string section, full compliment of horns and woodwinds, drums and harp under the direction of Lt. Col. Lowell E. Graham as conductor. They played "Harlem," arranged by Luther Henderson and Maurice Peress. It was a well executed performance, worthy of the great applause of the audience at its completion. Then came what I would call the *pièce de résistance*, a rendition of Duke's unfinished work "The Three Black Kings [Les Trois Rois] Concerto Grosso." The work had not been completed at Duke's death and was finished by his son, Mercer Ellington. Some uncertainty about its performances exists. Liner notes on the recording with the Ellington band and the Warsaw Philharmonic state that it was first performed at Yale University. Mercer and the band did a concert at the Lincoln Center in New York City. Regardless, for history the Air Force's was a well performed rendition and reminiscent of the many performances of Duke's work by other symphony orchestras. Incidentally, the three kings of the rendition are the Black King of the Magi, King Solomon, and Martin Luther King.

The closer was an arrangement of "Harlem" by Sgt. Crotti in symphony style and architecture. It was a fitting ending to a beautiful afternoon of music. It would have been wonderful had it been recorded for distribution; it's a shame that we were able to hear the concert only once.

Hints of Eleemosynary Facets of the Ducal Personality

Bet the Music Was Heavenly!

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
 LOCAL 802
CONTRACT BLANK
 Local Number 802
 THIS CONTRACT for the personal services of musicians on the engagement described below, made this 22nd day of April 1972 between the undersigned Purchaser of Music (hereinafter called "Employer") and 13 musicians (hereinafter called "Musicians") is made in full and final settlement of all claims and conditions. Each musician (to be shared, upon acceptance, shall be bound by said terms and conditions. Each musician may object to the agreement. The Musicians severally agree to perform the services under the undersigned order.
 1 Name and Address of Place of Management, St. Peter's Church, 54th & Lexington Ave. New York, N.Y.
 2 First Name of Band or Group, Duke Ellington L. Orchestra
 3 Dates, starting and finishing time of engagement, April 9, 1972 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.
 4 Type of Management (specify whether dance, stage show, banquet, etc.), Sacred Concert
 5 WAGE AGREED UPON \$1,000.00 Flat
 6 This wage includes _____
 7 This contract may not be amended without the written consent of both the Employer and the Musicians.
 8 This contract may not be assigned without the written consent of both the Employer and the Musicians.
 9 This contract may not be used for any other purpose than that specified herein.
 10 This contract may not be used for any other purpose than that specified herein.
 11 This contract may not be used for any other purpose than that specified herein.
 12 This contract may not be used for any other purpose than that specified herein.
 13 This contract may not be used for any other purpose than that specified herein.
 Key: John Connel
 54th St. Lexington Ave.
 New York, New York
 C/O Cress Company
 100 E. 30th St.
 New York, New York 10016
 DUPLICATE

Because the A-Train Doesn't Go That Far South Nor the Happy-Go-Lucky Local that Far North?

Tel. SOUTH AMBOY 1-1958
 DATE October 1958
 Duke Ellington Orchestra, Inc.
 New York, N.Y.
Super Service Bus Company
 Charter Bus Service
 DE LUXE COACHES TO HIRE FOR ALL OCCASIONS
 Authorized by I. C. C. N. Y. & N. J. P. U. C.
 Route 35 South Amboy, N. J.
 1 Bus donated by Duke Ellington for Integrated Youth March
 New York, N.Y. to Washington, D.C. Round Trip
 234 Miles
 234
 468
 \$257.00
 Tolls 12.10
 Total 259.10
 Thank You
 Customers Signature

Short Sheets...

♪ The Annapolis Chorale and Annapolis Chamber Orchestra featured the music of Duke Ellington and Gershwin during its "Weekend of Jazz" in February. A special event was "An Evening with Ethel [Ennis]," known as "Maryland's First Lady of Jazz." Pianist Steff Scaggiari was the other featured artist.

♪ Ellington Collection persons at the Smithsonian will present at "Ellington '99."

♪ There is a move underway to erect a statue of Duke in London's Soho Square.

♪ The program for TDES' March meeting called for Loren Schoenberg to present unusual and unknown compositions he found in the Smithsonian's Ellington Collection, illustrating with recordings of his big band made especially for the occasion.

Honors for Chapter Member

Dr. Luvenia A. George has been inducted into the African American Hall of Fame Museum in Peoria, IL, the only African American museum in Illinois outside of Chicago. A native Chicagoian, Luvenia will be honored for her pioneering contributions in multicultural music education as the author of *Teaching the Music of Six Different Cultures*, first published in 1976 and revised in 1987 with accompanying tape; for her work at the Smithsonian, where she is former Research Scholar with the Program in African American Culture and currently serves as Coordinator of the Duke Ellington Youth Project; and for her varied research and work in the areas of integrative school music curricula, ethnomusicology in the public sector, and African American music history.

A while back, Luvenia was the subject of Washington *Post* article, "Today, Class, It's Chimes: Teaching Music of Many Cultures" written by Hollie I. West, one of our March meeting guests.

<i>Chapter 90 Board of Directors</i>	
Patricia Braxton	Helen Frazier
Angela Grimmer	Mac Grimmer
Rusty Hassan	Theodore Hudson
Ben Pubols	Bob Reny
Theodore Shell	Jack Towers
Patricia Willard	

Bruno Lima, Wilson HS Student, Wins Logo Design Competition

The panel of judges has announced winners of the "Ellington '99" Logo Design Competition sponsored by our Chapter and administered by the Duke Ellington Youth Project (directed by Chapter member Luvenia George), a joint cultural activity of the DC Public Schools and the Smithsonian Institution:

First place: Bruno Lima, 12th grade, Woodrow Wilson HS, teacher: Sandra B. Williams

Second place: Shanay Boyd, 8th grade, P.R. Harris Education Center, teacher: James Cunningham

Third place: Marlon Hudgens, 12th grade, Ballou HS, teacher: Murilene E. Gordon

Honorable mention: Shanika Butler, 9th grade, P.R. Harris School, teacher: James Cunningham ; Jerome Jones, Ballou HS, teacher: Murilene Gordon; and Carol Thomas, 8th grade, P.R. Harris Education Center, teacher: James Cunningham.

The judges noted not only the talent of the contestants, but also evidence of their sensitivity to and appreciation of the artistry of Ellington and of the event commemorating him, "Ellington '99."

Monetary and other awards will be presented to the winners at their respective schools. Each participant will receive an honorary student membership in our Chapter.

Note of Thanks

We are grateful to Peter Robinson for so graciously serving as the professional artist on the panel of judges for our "Ellington '99" Logo Design Competition. Mr. Robinson is former Director of the Graphics and Management Presentations Division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). His paintings have been widely shown, including one-man exhibitions, in premier domestic and foreign venues.

From Our Mail --



It was great reading about that wonderful lady, June Norton, in the Chapter Newsletter [February 1997]. We well remember her moving rendition of "Mood Indigo" at the 1985 Conference in Oldham.

-- Art Pilkington, Canada

"Dramatis Felidae"

(To Use Our Man's Term in *MIMM*)

About the Cats and Kittens in Our Chapter

Jack Ladd Carr, one of our new members, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Annapolis Symphony and hopes that orchestra will perform some Ellington/Strayhorn music in the future. ♪ ♪ **Annie Kuebler** recently returned from the Institute for Jazz Studies at Rutgers University, where she researched Mary Lou Williams music manuscripts, finding scores for Ellington, including, of course "Blue Skies" a.k.a. "Trumpets No End." ♪ ♪ **Pat Braxton** has been instrumental in organizing a jazz interest group at the World Bank Organization, where she is employed. ♪ ♪ **Deborra Richardson** is playing clarinet in the University of Maryland Community Band (College Park Campus). Deborra published an article in the February issue of *The Pathfinder* on the Smithsonian's Ruth Ellington Collection. ♪ ♪ **Ben Pubols** is scheduled to lecture on "From the Washingtonians until Cootie Left the Duke" at the World Bank. ♪ ♪ Chapter members' names frequently appear in "credits" for productions and events. For example, in the program for the performance by Claude "Fiddler" Williams sponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, special gratitude is expressed to **Reuben Jackson** for his help with their American Sampler series. ♪ ♪ Three of our Chapter members published in the current issue of *Blue Light*: **Walter van de Leur** (letter and article), **Lois Moody** (reprint of a TDES newsletter article), and **Jerry Valburn** (regular column). ♪ ♪ **Sjef Hoefsmijt** is taking a brief holiday from his labors of love on the *DEMS Bulletin* to "spend a few days teaching two of our grandsons how to ski" and (to talk discography, you can bet) visit Luciano Massagli for a few days.

Reminders

☛ Annual dues are for the calendar year: \$30, single; \$50, couple; \$20, first-time-ever; and \$5, student.

☛ We hope you already have, but if you haven't, please promptly complete and return the "Ellington Connection" form that was inserted in last month's issue.

"Like Being Back At the Howard Theater"

by Angela Grimmer, Secretary

That observation was the reaction of one guest to the Ellington videos shown by Ted Shell at his home, where we held our March meeting. The packed media room testified to the attractiveness of these yearly programs and to the Shells' gracious hospitality.

Ted again came up with a fascinating program, highlights of which included a new Ben Webster laserdisc from Japan, of Ben at Rommie Scott's in London. (The piano player on this was Stan Tracey, who will play at Ellington '97 in Leeds.) *Duke in Berlin* featured Wild Bill Davis on "April in Paris" and "Satin Doll," versions that are still fresh and exciting, further enhanced by the visual dimension.

Ted's program, and Marion's heartily enjoyed treats, kept the evening going until well past midnight, when we all reluctantly packed up and went home.

Tapes of "Ellington '96" Sessions Available

In a previous issue we mentioned that the Toronto DES was preparing to issue audio tapes of "Ellington '96." They are now ready to accept orders.

For details, write to: John Norris, PO Box 1002, Station "O," Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4A 2N4 (or send a SASE to your Editor, who will make you a photocopy of the order form).

Calendar

- Sat., April 5* - Regular Monthly Meeting
- Feb. 6-March 20* - "Beyond Category" Library Exhibit, Tampa, Florida and Boise, Idaho
- April 3-May 15* - "Beyond Category" Library Exhibit, Charleston, SC and Tacoma, WA
- April 24 (6 pm)* - 6th Annual Ellington Youth Project Festival, Auditorium, University of the District of Columbia
- April 25 (Noon)* - Original Poetry and Drama, Ellington Youth Project, Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History (NMAH), Smithsonian
- April 26-June 2* - Art Exhibit, Ellington Youth Project, Taylor Gallery, NMAH
- May 22-26* - "Ellington '97," Leeds, England