



The Duke Ellington Orchestra and Symphony Concert Series

The Duke Ellington Orchestra is the preeminent performer of the music of Duke Ellington. A prolific composer, Ellington created over two thousand pieces of music, including the standard songs "Take the A-Train" and "It Don't mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" and the longer works Black, Brown and Beige, Liberian Suite, and Afro-Eurasian Eclipse. The orchestra features Barrie Lee Hall, one of the original orchestra members.

"Duke's band knows how to cook"

Grand Rapids Press

In **2007**, The Duke Ellington Orchestra traveled over four continents to play and promote the music of Duke Ellington. The Orchestra was the featured Performer at the prestigious Tokyo Jazz Festival and the Cape May Jazz Festival (one of the longest running jazz festivals in the United States).

In **2008**, the Duke Ellington Orchestra again travelled throughout the world including two tours in Japan, Puerto Rico, and a six-week United States West Coast tour. The orchestra performed at the world famous jazz clubs Jazz Alley in Seattle, Blues Alley in Washington DC, Billboard Clubs in Japan, Blue Note New York and Nagoya. The year also included a return to the Cotton Club Tokyo and the closing day performance at the prestigious Heineken Jazz Festival.

Performances for **2009**, include the return to Japan, another West Coast tour, and featured performances in China and South Africa. The Orchestra will be highlighted in The Duke Ellington Jazz Festival which will include a revival performance on the much anticipated *New Orleans Suite*. Other exciting events will involve a live studio recording of Duke Ellington Classics. Also in development will be a stand-alone production of Duke Ellington music that will include the orchestra, vocalists, and dancers.

The Duke Ellington Orchestra has appeared with the following orchestras:
Grand Rapids Symphony, Syracuse Symphony, South Bend Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Knoxville Symphony

The following selections are arranged for Jazz Band and Symphony Orchestra:
"A" Train, Satin Doll, Creole Love Call, Chelsea Bridge, There, The Blues, Smile as You Go By, Full Moon at Midnight, Three Black Kings (Les Trois Rois Noirs), New World A'Comin

Concert formats include: half program of The Duke Ellington Orchestra playing with the Symphony; and a hybrid program where The Duke Ellington Orchestra and Symphony play together interspersed with selections played only by The Duke Ellington Orchestra (either a half program or full program).

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