



DUKE ELLINGTON: EARLY TRACKS from the Master of Swing (MVD)

"21 Fabulous Performances" is splashed on the cover on this {^Early Tracks From The Master Of Swing} DVD of {\$Duke Ellington} material, and that they are - classic performances kind of thrown together with no rhyme or reason. There's no problem with the music and the magic - it's here for sure - kind of like a DVD version of an iPod in shuffle. The set features {\$Ellington} announcing many of the tracks starting with the instrumentals {"Satin Doll"} and {"Mood Indigo"}, all very elegant and beautifully played.

But would you expect any less from The Duke? {\$Herb Jeffries} sings a rendition of his mega-selling hit {"Flamingo"} from the 1947 film with {\$Dorothy Dandridge} while {\$Johnny Hodges} is showcased on {"Things Ain't What They Used To Be"} as {\$Cootie Williams} is with {"Fly Me To The Moon (In Other Words)"} and {"Tootie For Cootie"}. There's the four part {"Symphony In Black"} with eight minutes and thirty-eight seconds featuring {\$Billie Holiday} on vocals, also available on {@MVD}'s {\$Duke Ellington In

Hollywood: Swing Era} DVD. The majesty of all this music with visuals is somewhat blunted by the lack of information accompanying this package. A clip of {"Bli-Blip"} credited to actors {\$Marie Bryant} and {\$Paul White} shows up in the middle of the DVD, but with no narration and no liner notes this quick edit is less than what it could be. The {"VIP Boogie"} and {"Jam With Sam"} medley at the end of this collection has Duke introducing many of the performers including {\$Harry Carnie} on baritone sax and the clarinet of {\$Jimmy Hamilton}. With a stack of DVDs from this artist commercially available it would be prudent for these labels to invest in some serious telling of history with additional audio or a nice booklet.

Though lacking in that, and flawed because of it, this is still a terrific listening and viewing experience from one of the greats stretched across the first 21 tracks with bonus material from {\$Peggy Lee}, {\$Dizzy Gillespie & Orchestra}, {\$Les Paul Trio} and {\$The Cab Calloway Orchestra}. That bonus material all tagged on, of course, with no explanation or additional information.

25 jazz music videos which speak for themselves.

- 1.Satin Doll~2:35~
- 2.Mood Indigo~4:14~
- 3.Fly Me To the Moon~
- 4.(Blow by Blow)Ready To Go
- 5.Flamingo

- 6.Things Ain't What They Used To Be
- 7.Afribosa~4:11
- 8.Jam Session (C Jam Blues)
- 9.Tootie for Cootie
- 10.Sophisticated Lady
- 11.Symphony in Black
- 12.Bli Blip
- 13.Skiddlypoop (From Shakespeare Suite)
- 14.Jam with Sam
- 15.Cottontail (Hot Chocolate)
- 16.Black and Tan Fantasy
- 17.The Prowling Cat
- 18.Alcibiades (Timon of Athens March)
- 19.I Got It Bad and That Ain't Good
- 20.Take the "A" Train
- 21.VIP Boogie/Jam with Sam
- 22.One Bass Hit
- Gillespie, Dizzy & Orchestra,
- 23.Dark Eyes
- Paul, Les Trio
- 24.Why Don't You Do Right?/  
Performed by: Peggy Lee,
- 25.Minnie the Moocher/Performed by: Cab Calloway Orchestra

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Ellington, Duke/piano  
Holiday, Billie/vocals

Carnie, Harry/baritone sax

Hamilton, Jimmy/clarinet

Williams, Cootie/trumpet

Jeffries, Herb/vocals

Woodyard, Sam/drums

Anderson, Cat/trumpet

Hodges, Johnny/alto saxophone