



# Ellingtonia



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**William McFadden, Editor**

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## The 24th International Duke Ellington Study Group Conference

**May 19-23, 2016 ♦ New York City**

**Sponsored by The Duke Ellington Center for the Arts (DECFA)**

### Tentative Schedule Announced

#### ♦ **Thursday, May 19, 2016**

St. Peter's Church, 619 Lexington Ave.

*12:30 - 1:45 Jazz on the Plaza—The Music of Duke Ellington*, East 53rd St. and Lexington Ave. at St. Peter's

*3:00 - 5:30 "A Drum Is A Woman"* - Screenings at The Paley Center for Media, 25 West 52nd St.

*5:30 - 7:00 Dinner break*

*7:15 - 8:00 Gala Opening Reception at St. Peter's, "The Jazz Church"* - Greetings and welcome from Mercedes Ellington, Michael Dinwiddie (DEFCA) and Ray Carman (TDES, Inc.)

*8:00 - 9:00 The Duke Ellington Center Big Band* - Frank Owens, Musical Director

#### ♦ **Friday, May 20, 2016**

MIST—Harlem, 46 West 116 St.

*10:00 - 10:30 Musical Entertainment* - Ethan Fein, Antoinette Montague, Bob Stewart

*10:40 - 12:00 Jazz & Gender Panel* - Julie Malnig Moderator, Rebecca Fulop, Carmen de Lavallade, John Wriggle

*12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Break*

*1:15 - 1:45 Keynote Speaker Robin Bell-Stevens*

*2:00 - 3:20 Collaborations Panel* - Philippe Baudoin, Matthias Heyman, David Hajdu, Krin Gabbard, Daryl Waters

*3:30 - 4:30 Perpetually Progressive Panel* - Steven Lasker, Bill Saxonis, Phil Schaap

*4:40 - 5:15 Fancies and Fantasies Panel* - Michele Corcella, Nate Sloan, Herb Boyd

(Continued on Page 3.)

## **This Saturday Night . . . 'Hero of the Newport Jazz Festival' . . . Paul Gonsalves**

Our March meeting will bring in the month just like the proverbial lion in a program selected by **Art Luby**. It promises a finely-tuned revisit to some of the greatest tenor saxophone virtuosity by **Paul Gonsalves**, other



than his immortal 16-bar solo on "Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue" at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1956. That's a lot of territory, considering Paul's quarter century with The Orchestra. In addition to his expertise on things Gonsalves, Art's inspiration for this program comes from a memorable evening a decade ago where the same terrain was visited and expertly hosted by the late **Ted Shell**.

Art's blues-and-ballads-filled listen to the man called "Strolling Violins" will get going in our regular digs at **Grace Lutheran Church, 4300—16th Street (at Varnum St.), NW, Washington, DC 20011** on:

**Saturday, 5 March 2016—7:00 PM.**

Whether sweet or substantive, pot luck is how we share the edibles, so don't forget to bring something good. Even if you do forget, come anyway because we do love to see you—madly, that is. Management brings beverages and ice.

**Next Meeting:**

**Saturday, 2 April 2016—7:00 PM**

## **Save the (Meeting) Dates**

At the Society's seasonal halfway point we are with a gentle reminder to please mark your calendars for:

**April 4**

**October 1**

**May 7**

**November 5**

**June 4**

**December 3**

## 'What Can You Do With A Drum?' Recovered and Restored to 'Jam With Sam' Condition

First chair percussion mainstay of The Orchestra, **Sam Woodyard** parted company with Duke in 1966. He eventually moved to France and finally settled in Paris, where he also played through the years preceding his passing in 1988 at age 62. Sam's last drum kit, or components thereof, had been stolen before the onset of his final months; it was presumed that the instrument would never be recovered. Yet a French drummer named **François Laudet** found the kit's basic pieces, then carefully and patiently restored (*amoureuseusement restaurée*) the set for permanent conservation by **La Maison du Duke** in Paris.

(Photo by François Laudet, with Dennis Woodyard)



The drums were put to the ultimate test on February 8: the **Laurent Mignard DUKE Orchestra** performed in concert at the Chatelet Theatre in Paris. The amazing **Julie Saury** drove the band from the drummer's throne.

Can you guess why there's an extra "M" on the bass drum? (Photo © Philippe Marchin)



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*inauguration of Goutelas is by far the most moving.*

*"To be here to help celebrate the rebuilding of this beautiful Castle by men who came together from the greatest extremes of religious, political, and intellectual beliefs is an experience—and a majestic demonstration of humanism—that I shall never forget. They did not merely make a donation that others might roll up their sleeves to work; they rolled up their own sleeves and worked.*

*"To be accepted by these heroic human beings leaves me breathless."*

Naturally intending to commemorate the grandeur, Duke Ellington would finally record "The Goutelas Suite" with The Orchestra in 1971.

### JAM + Duke's Birthday = Spring!

You know that winter is pushed aside by spring when it's time to think about Smithsonian Jazz' **JAM—Jazz Appreciation Month!** Preparing is simple as clicking the blue hyperlink to see what's in store for 2016.

The "Renaissance man of jazz," **Benny Carter** graces the 2016 JAM poster, and can also be requested through their online resources.

**Edward Kennedy Ellington's 117th birth anniversary is April 29!**

### 50 Years Ago . . . In France with "a real swinging chick"



Seen in the photo on top of that clavier piano, to the Maestro's right. Being outdoors, of course, Ellington invited all the 'chicks' to come out and listen, but only one bothered to show up.

Duke was, in fact, being given a tour of the Chateau de Goutelas grounds outside the French 13th Century castle which had been totally restored beginning in 1960.

Friends of Ellington were involved in the project and invited him to inaugurate the completely renovated left wing on February 25, 1966.

The guest of honor was royally feted, and a special performance was also recorded as a keepsake for each person attending. At the castle's approach were 50 children lighting the way with torches in salute.

Before playing, Duke delivered these remarks: "I have been an honorary citizen of many cities and countries, but the honor of participating in the



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***We meet on the first Saturday, October—June at 7:00 PM. Guests are always welcomed!***

## Conference Schedule *(Continued from Front Page.)*

### ◆ Friday, May 20 (continued)

5:20-6:00 *Ellington's Musical Legacy* - David Alan Bunn

6:15-8:15 *The Duke's Harlem at Dusk* - Rigmor Newman,  
Tour leader

10:00 *Jazz at Kitano – Kenny Werner, Piano* - 66 Park  
Ave. (Cover charge waived for Conference registrants.)

### ◆ Saturday, May 21, 2016

St. Peter's Church, 619 Lexington Ave.

10:30-11:30 *Early Ellington* - Ken Steiner, Mick Carlon

11:30-12:30 *Ellington Societies International* - Market-  
place, Book Signings and Information Exchange, Frits Schjott –  
Special Acknowledgement

12:30-1:45 *Lunch break*

2:00-3:45 *Ellington on Broadway* -  
Mercedes Ellington, Eli Yamin, plus Sur-  
prise Guest Performers!

4:00-5:30 *Ellington on the Road* -  
Olle Edstrom, Gregory Marion, David  
Palmquist, Marcello Piras, Carl Woideck

5:30-7:00 *Dinner break*

7:00-8:00 *Ellington and Ellingtonia: New Video Dis-  
coveries* - Will Friedwald

8:15-9:15 *Bobby Sanabria's Multiverse Big Band*

10:00 *Jazz at Kitano – Kenny Werner, Piano* - 66 Park  
Ave. (Cover charge waived for Conference registrants.)

### ◆ Sunday, May 22, 2016

MIST-Harlem - 46 West 116 St.

11:00-11:45 *Future Study Group Conference Planning*

12:00-1:30 *Beyond Category Awards Luncheon*

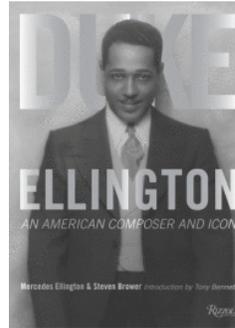
2:00-4:00 *Special Excursions TBA*

5:00-6:00 *Jazz Vespers at St. Peter's Church*

**Additional information, including registration details, can be accessed anytime by using the Conference links on the front page headings.**

*(Ed. Note: Conference information is provided herein as a service to Society members. Not a paid advertisement.)*

## Marketplace Spotlight: New Duke Ellington Book This Spring



**Mercedes Ellington**, along with Stephen Brower, has written a deluxe book about her grandfather to be published in April to coincide with his birthday, [\*Duke Ellington: An American Composer and Icon\*](#).

According to publisher Rizzoli USA, “Every stage of Ellington's career is brought to life with un-seen images and artifacts, from his early days in Washington, D.C., to

his beginnings on the New York jazz circuit and the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s, his triumph through the Depression and tours of Europe in the 1930s, and his pioneering explosion of form and genre in the 1940s and beyond.”

## Rotterdam 1969—First Time on CD

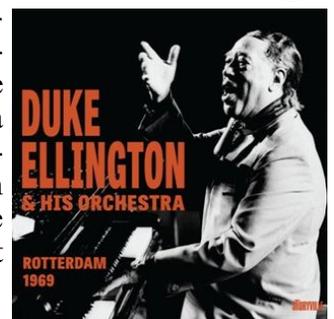
Yet another important CD debut of an unreleased Ellington concert performance has been made available by Storyville Records. Yet another tempting description of content is provided by the label:

Duke Ellington and His Orchestra toured Europe in November 1969, a time when Duke was still at the top of his powers. It is a pleasure to be able to issue the whole of an excellent concert recorded in De Doelen Concert Hall in Rotterdam—a venue famous for its splendid acoustics.

The ambience is remarkable on this live recording: The audience is audibly enthusiastic and these high spirits influence the band: Duke Ellington and The Orchestra gave two concerts on November 7th, and even though this is the second one, the musicians sound nothing but lively and fresh.

The repertoire includes classics such as “Take the A Train” and “Don’t Get Around Much More” rarely heard as swinging as on this day, vigorous and fresh versions of “Kinda Dukish” and “Rockin’ In Rhythm” and the newer 1966 composition “La Plus Belle Africaine,” the centerpiece of the concert.

The never-before released 1969 Rotterdam concert exhibits Duke Ellington and His Orchestra on one of their most intense and enthusiastic nights. Still in a brilliant mood after two concerts, Ellington even played an after-party concert with a quartet—a possible upcoming Storyville Records issue.



## “Dramatis Felidae” (To Use Our Man’s Term in *MIMM*)

### About Our Members . . .

It is a tremendous honor to report about something important **Walt Robinson** did recently, courtesy of the Air Force News Service:

*On February 6, three members of the famed **Tuskegee Airmen** visited with Airmen at the Pentagon during a ‘meet and greet’ hosted by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James.*

*Retired Col. Charles McGee and former Cadets William Fauntroy, Jr. and **Walter Robinson, Sr.** shared stories and insights about their lives as Tuskegee Airmen and as civilians after they left the military.*

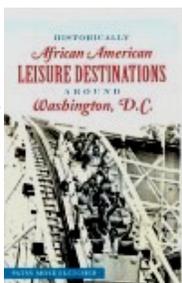
*“I had a breadth of understanding of what could be, because I had accepted the training and the discipline,” said Robinson, who went on to become the first black postal manager in Washington, DC.*



(Pictured above, l. to r. Robinson, Fauntroy, James, McGee.)

*The Airmen were named after the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama, where they received their pilot and aircraft maintenance training during World War II. The Tuskegee Airmen were not only flyers but also radio operators, navigators, bombardiers, aircraft maintainers, instructors, support staff, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air.*

We were delighted and proud to open *The Washington Post* on February 9, and see the following headline on John Kelly’s Metro column: *In the face of rampant bigotry, black entertainment flourished in the DC area.* Kelly devotes the entire column to **Patsy Fletcher’s** recently published book, *Historically African American Leisure Destinations Around Washington, D.C.* (History Press). Patsy, who is also neighborhood heritage coordinator at the District’s Historic Preservation Office, talks about some of the destinations featured in her book such as the Seafarers’ Yacht Club, National Capital Country Club, Wilmer’s Park (for music), and Suburban Gardens—her favorite. “People had an opportunity to rest and get away, right here in the city. It wouldn’t cost a whole lot of money to just go and have a pleasant day.”



**Dr. Marion Shell** extends her gratitude for all of our sympathy and condolences. She requests that any gifts in **Ted Shell’s** memory be given to a charity of the individual’s choice.

## Best Event of Super Bowl Weekend . . . **Bob’s Eclectic Ellington Exclusives**

by **Art Luby**, Secretary

The February 6 meeting of the Society featured a thoughtfully prepared playlist by **Bob Reny**, which he titled a “Listening Session”. What we received were superb, off-the-beaten-track performances by the Maestro, his sidemen, and some takes on Ellington standards by master musicians from outside the organization.

Early on we heard **Willie Cook** at the height of his considerable powers during the first set recorded at Newport, 1956 carrying “Tea for Two” (a remarkable virtuoso turn which would have received far more attention but for all the excitement generated during the second set that famous evening).



The **Stan Kenton** Orchestra—whose leader admired and competed with Duke in, more or less, equal measure—generated a nice version of “I’ve Got It Bad” with a powerful trombone solo by **Frank Rosolino**, one of the best musicians Kenton ever had in that section.

One of Bob’s most interesting finds was **The Soft Winds**, a trio comprised of **Herb Ellis** on guitar, **John Frigo** on violin, and pianist **Lou Carter**, which began as a component of the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra but struggled as a solo act. The group reunited some 45 years later on a mid-1990’s jazz cruise. Propelled by the late **Keter Betts’** bass, they delivered superbly swinging versions of “Things Ain’t What They Used To Be” and “C-Jam Blues”.

We later listened to the poignant “King” from Ellington’s memorable, yet seldom performed theatrical production, *My People*.

Finally, **Rosemary Clooney** gently belted an energetic version of Strayhorn’s “I’m Checking Out - Goom-Bye” taken from her 1977 *Tribute to Duke* lp. Having been originally sung with The Orchestra in 1956 on *Blue Rose*, Rosie once remarked that the words and music proved autobiographical.

### THE DUKE ELLINGTON SOCIETY, INC.

*In Memoriam Theodore A. Shell (1915-2015)*

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