

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

### « Duke in Lights »

Marylin Lester

*Friday, april 28 – 11 :45 am - Médiathèque Musicale de Paris*

#### **Abstract**

Marilyn will talk about "the possibility and feasibility of forming a lasting International Duke Ellington Society". She will relate it to the values of Duke for the future. Indeed the theme of this discussion will be values for the future ... those of the Enlightenment and those of Duke Ellington. The fact that an international society is forward-looking would or could ensure that Duke lives on in a way that will outlive us all. This has always been a source of frustration because as far as Duke's legacy is concerned, this immense genius, the estate has let him down. In comparison, the legacy of Armstrong, Fitzgerald, Monk, Johnny Mercer, etc. is reflected in their foundations and, therefore, in the websites.

#### **Marylin Lester**



Marylin Lester is a writer and reviewer of jazz, cabaret, popular music and theater. She is on the Boards of the American Popular Song Society and the Tin Pan Alley American Popular Music Project—which with her other activities underscores her proactive commitment to the history, understanding, furtherance and preservation of American popular music and the Great American Songbook. She is also an expert on Duke Ellington and promote the interest in him in many ways. She is very active in the international Ellington community and was on the Board of the NY Duke Ellington Society and editor of the Duke Ellington Society newsletter until it was dissolved in 2021. She was also formerly the Executive Director of the Duke Ellington Center for the Arts. At the International Ellington Meeting 2023, she will take part in the roundtable Duke and the Lights.