



# A SOUVENIR OF THE MUSIC AT ELLINGTON 2008

The 20<sup>th</sup> International  
Duke Ellington Conference  
London, 22-26 May 2008

Notes by Antony Pepper, Organiser, and Derek Else,  
Music, ELLINGTON 2008.

Below, band names - sometimes as it happens identical  
to tune titles (not as it happens in any case included) -  
are in CAPITALS. Meanwhile, tune titles are in *Italics*.

## DISC ONE

It was a great honour to welcome three Ellington band-  
members to the Conference, to meet them, and to hear  
them all play. Their contribution to the event was huge.

### BRIAN PRIESTLEY AND THE ELLINGTONIANS TRACKS 1-10

Brian Priestley  
*Piano Arranger*  
Frank Griffith  
*Clarinet Tenor saxophone*  
Dave Barry  
*Drums*

Buster Cooper  
*Trombone*  
John Lamb  
*Double bass*  
Art Baron  
*Trombone*

The alumni are given in order of joining Ellington.

Pianist and Ellington scholar Brian Priestley was invited  
to form a small group to feature them in his  
arrangements during the Spring Bank Holiday Monday's  
Festival Session. This first CD is largely taken from their  
performance. Brian chose British drummer Dave Barry  
and American-at-large Frank Griffith to complete the  
group. Especial thanks to all.

As to choice of tunes, of particular note are the rarities  
*Love's Away* by Ben Webster and Johnny Hodges'  
*Parachute Jump*.

## TRACKS 11 & 12

The disc finishes with two pieces from earlier in the  
Conference, during the Saturday evening concert.

The first features John Lamb and Buster Cooper with the  
HARMONY IN HARLEM rhythm playing *Come  
Sunday*. The second features Art Baron and John Lamb  
with KINDA DUKISH on a *Hy'a Sue*-based blues.

## DISC TWO

It was a pleasure to have groups from around England  
(though as it turned out, none from further afield in the  
UK) to come and play at ELLINGTON 2008, and the  
second CD features tracks from several of these.

We've picked many of the best, and some of the  
interesting, performances from the four days, and  
concentrating as it does on the semi-pro groups it gives a  
good impression of the interest and skill there is in  
playing and thus hearing Ellington Orchestra music in  
concert around the country.

### HARMONY IN HARLEM TRACKS 1-5

*Trumpets* Dominic Rablah Nigel Carter Tim Benwell  
Sharon Doris  
*Trombones* Colin Bugby Mike Doris Andrew Sims  
*Reeds* David Ellingham (*as ss*) Michael Haller (*as*)  
Hannah Horton (*ts cl*) Martin Kemp (*ts cl*)  
Michael Kilpatrick (*bar as*)  
*Piano* Colin Hazel *Bass* Steve Laws  
*Drums* John Tyson *Guitar* Frank Brown  
*Vocal on Track 2* Alima Adams  
*Solo trombone on Track 5* Buster Cooper

We start with a band from the Cambridge area led by  
Michael Kilpatrick, and playing his transcriptions which  
use originals as his primary source. HARMONY IN  
HARLEM is to be heard in and around the East Anglia  
region.

*Buffet Flat* features the leader and Nigel Carter. Alima  
Adams sings *You Gave Me the Gate*. Colin Bugby takes  
Lawrence Brown's place in *Yearning for Love*. David  
Ellingham solos in *Magenta Haze*. Buster Cooper takes  
everyone's solo places on *Pussy Willow*.

### KINDA DUKISH TRACKS 6-10

*Trumpets* John Whitehouse Rodney Cass Tony Pipkin  
Barney Kinsey  
*Trombones* Carl Fletcher Dave Plant Ron Hills  
Art Baron  
*Reeds* Mike Fletcher (*ts*) Vic Newton (*as ss cl*)  
Mike Fletcher Jnr. (*as*) Sharon Brown (*cl ts*)  
Julie Robinson (*ts*) Paul Raybould (*bar*)  
*Piano* Roger Heeley *Bass* Steve Galey  
*Drums* Roger Battersea  
*Vocal on Track 8* Ron Hills

Mike Fletcher heads KINDA DUKISH, a band from the  
Midlands, and his son Mike Jnr. is featured on *Jeep's  
Blues*. Tony Pipkin plays *Concerto for Cootie* and  
*Portrait of Louis Armstrong*, and Ron Hills sings *Tulip  
or Turnip*. Art Baron sits in throughout the set, as well as  
being featured with the band on DISC ONE, TRACK 12.

ELLINGTONIA  
TRACKS 11 & 12

*Trumpet* Andy Stark  
*Trombone* Sam Smith  
*Reeds* Dave McKeown (*as ts cl*)  
Ian Wellens (*bar as ss*)  
*Piano* Glyn Jackson *Bass* David George  
*Guitar* Steve Dow *Drums* Pete Cox  
*Vocal on Track 12* Annika Skoogh

ELLINGTONIA hails from the West Country and is led by Ian Wellens - our second bari-playing leader.

He'd closed the Daytime Conference earlier in the day with his presentation on scaling Ellington Orchestra material for a smaller group. Annika Skoogh sings *I'm Beginning to See the Light*.

The recordings of which this album is comprised were all made using a stereo pair of microphones set up in front of the bandstands.

This leads to the natural balance you hear throughout and the simple effect created is I believe generally beneficial, particularly when considering spatial clarity and the timing and integrity of the music.

However, amplified vocalists tend to sound off-mic (the recording mics anyhow), and this varies. But I believe what you hear is largely a faithful record of what you could have heard, and perhaps did, in person near by the bandstands.

With this set particularly and the next, in stereo, you really get a sense of the bustle of Sunday evening at the Conference, Banquet Night.

It is hoped that everyone will forgive the sometimes intrusive presence of the atmosphere and that Delegates and others present will at once be taken back to that evening by pleasant memories.

THE VO-DE-O-DO ORCHESTRA  
TRACKS 13-16

*Trumpets* David Jones John Strangman  
*Trombone* Simon Wyld  
*Reeds* Quentin Bryar (*as cl*) Dave Eastham (*ts cl*)  
Keith Blackburn (*as bar cl*)  
*Piano* Gwyn Arch *Bass* Genevieve Curd  
*Banjo* Robin Mosley *Drums* Terry Vincent  
*Vocal on Track 15* Jan Curd

The only band here from London, THE VO-DE-O-DO ORCHESTRA, and the next, do not play exclusively Duke. Neither had any great difficulty in planning a programme for our Conference, however.

David Jones leads. Reed-man Quentin Bryar put together the chart for the rarely, if ever, played *Echoes of the Jungle*, on which he is heard with Dave Eastham. Jan Curd sings *It Don't Mean a Thing*.

HARLEM  
TRACKS 17-20

*Cornet Vocal on Track 18* Brian Bates  
*Trumpets* Tony Davis John Falloon  
*Trombone* Paul Munnery  
*Reeds* Dave Taylor (*cl ts*) Ruth Godfrey (*cl as bar*)  
Bob Caldwell (*cl as*)  
*Piano* Martin Litton *Bass* Tony Sharp  
*Drums* Nick Ward *Guitar Banjo* Rachel Hayward  
*Vocal on Track 19* Judy Eames

HARLEM is from Birmingham. Its performance, as with the ELLINGTONIANS set making up the bulk of DISC ONE, took place on Monday.

Our final-day Festival Session (nearly continuous music over 12 hours), saw us decamp to the big ballroom on the far side of the Royal National Hotel in Bloomsbury. The previous Evening Concerts had been held in a smaller room at the hotel, and the added space can be

heard here. Paul Munnery leads. Martin Litton starts off *Rockin' in Rhythm*. *Drop Me Off in Harlem* features Brian Bates, vocal, and *Stormy Weather*, Judy Eames, vocal.

An exciting *Jubilee Stomp* running up to *perhaps* just slightly too fast a lick concludes our choice of music from ELLINGTON 2008.

I hope you enjoy having this souvenir!

My thanks go to my fellow Conference organisers for their hard work, and particularly to Derek Else for his contributions throughout.

AP May 2009

As an almost-retired semi-pro London jazz musician of some 52 years standing I am extremely pleased to be associated with this double CD. The musicianship displayed by all bands is exceptional. I only wish that I could have been part of the music-making.

Some of the highlights for me would be Nick Ward's drumming with HARLEM, Jan Curd's vocal on *It Don't Mean a Thing* with THE VO-DE-O-DO ORCHESTRA and Michael Kilpatrick's writing for his HARMONY IN HARLEM orchestra.

It was especially pleasing for me to hear, once again, the contrasting trombone styles of Buster Cooper and Art Baron and the impeccable bass playing of John Lamb. Not forgetting Frank Griffith's beautiful rendition of *Love's Away*, a tune that I had not heard before.

Thank you, Antony Pepper, for your patience, determination and your constant good humour in putting together this project and for listening to my swearing and barking down the telephone.

DE May 2009