



THE LIFE OF DUKE ELLINGTON

AMERICAN LEGENDS

by
CHARLES RIVER EDITORS

American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington

Rachel Kranz



American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington:

American Legends Charles River Editors, 2015-02-16 Includes pictures Includes Duke Ellington's quotes about his life and career Includes a bibliography for further reading Includes a table of contents I merely took the energy it takes to pout and wrote some blues Duke Ellington Art is dangerous It is one of the attractions when it ceases to be dangerous you don't want it Duke Ellington A lot of ink has been spilled covering the lives of history's most influential figures but how much of the forest is lost for the trees In Charles River Editors American Legends series readers can get caught up to speed on the lives of America's most important men and women in the time it takes to finish a commute while learning interesting facts long forgotten or never known In 1956 Duke Ellington was featured on the cover of Time Magazine after a bravura performance at the Newport Jazz Festival that summer This remains one of his most iconic achievements and a landmark for jazz music as a whole only four jazz musicians were ever displayed on the cover of Time At the same time however this recognition stands as one of the prevailing ironies of Ellington's career as he was deep into the latter stages of his performing life by this point Indeed there is a way in which everything that Ellington had done up to that point in his career was obscured Put differently it is misleading to recognize Duke simply for his accomplished performance at the festival as one could justifiably argue that he transformed the very nature of jazz both its stylistic qualities and its cultural identity in his career up until this point Duke Ellington's career covers such a vast scope that it is difficult to locate exactly where it began Born into a relatively well-to-do family in Washington D C Duke's mother saw to it that he received quality musical instruction from a young age yet this did not lead to immediate investment in the musical arts It was not until early in his teenage years that he began seriously playing music but his performing career began soon thereafter From that point forward Ellington's shift through adolescence through adulthood his very maturation process was inextricably tied to his growth as a musical performer Moreover Ellington was both a pioneer and someone invested in the cultural history of his race He was able to implement new motifs to jazz but did so in a manner that was forever committed to honoring the heritage of African American music In addition to live performances Ellington worked in radio and film and his work remains some of the most important in American culture during the time period His music addressed not only race but also influenced the evolution of jazz through the first half of the 20th century American Legends The Life of Duke Ellington looks at the life and career of one of America's most influential musicians Along with pictures of important people places and events you will learn about Duke Ellington like never before in no time at all **Concerto for Cootie** Steven C. Bowie, 2025-10-24 Jazz legend Cootie Williams left home to start his career as a professional musician at the age of fifteen In 1940 after eleven years as one of the major soloists with the Duke Ellington orchestra Williams was lured away to the band of Benny Goodman one of the most popular bands in the country At the time it was a controversial move it was still taboo for African Americans to share the bandstand with white people Current references reduce it to a song written by Raymond Scott When Cootie Left the Duke In reality it was a seismic event The

Black press predicted Black bands would collapse from raids on their ranks White musicians were afraid they would be put out of work And the white press stirred up visions of Black musicians mixing with white women in the new landscape of integrated orchestras The twenty years trumpeter Williams spent as a band leader 1942 1962 have been covered in only the barest of details His involvement in politics and the civil rights movement have not been detailed before An astute talent scout Williams and his band launched the careers of Eddie Cleanhead Vinson Earl Bud Powell Eddie Lockjaw Davis and Pearl Bailey He also was the first to record the music of a young Thelonious Monk using two of Monk s compositions Epistrophy and Round Midnight as theme songs for his band Steven C Bowie respectfully tells Williams s story from his Alabama ancestry onward including many new details rediscovered from the historical archives of the African American press and those gleaned from the author s interviews with his friends and colleagues Duke Ellington Charlotte

Etinde-Crompton, Samuel Willard Crompton, 2019-07-15 His was the greatest of talents concealed beneath a carefree exterior Duke Ellington possessed musical genius which he claimed to exert for the glory of God and on behalf of his fellow African Americans Readers will get to know the many sides of the legendary composer The sunshiny smile displayed at concert time could sometimes be replaced by a frightful temper behind the scenes Genius often comes at a price but Duke Ellington s work is paramount It includes 1 800 musical compositions and a virtually uncountable number of concert appearances

Readers will agree that his contributions belong to the ages **Swingin' and Stompin': The Life and Legacy of a Jazz Legend** Pasquale De Marco, 2025-03-10 In the world of jazz few figures loom as large as Duke Ellington This comprehensive and engaging biography delves into the life and legacy of the legendary composer pianist and bandleader exploring his musical genius his contributions to civil rights and his enduring impact on American culture From his humble beginnings in Washington D C to his rise to fame as a bandleader and composer of over two thousand pieces Ellington s journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and artistic vision His music characterized by its sophisticated harmonies infectious rhythms and evocative melodies captivated audiences worldwide and earned him the title of the Duke of Ellington Beyond his musical achievements Ellington was also a tireless advocate for civil rights He used his platform to challenge racial discrimination and promote equality becoming a symbol of hope and inspiration for African Americans during a time of great struggle His music and activism made him a cultural icon transcending the boundaries of race and genre Ellington s legacy extends far beyond his lifetime His compositions continue to be performed and enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds and his influence can be heard in countless contemporary musicians His music has been featured in films television shows and commercials further solidifying his status as one of the most recognizable and influential figures in jazz history This biography provides a comprehensive overview of Ellington s life and career shedding light on his creative process his collaborations with other musical giants and the social and cultural context in which he lived and worked Through meticulous research and insightful analysis this book offers a fresh perspective on Ellington s contributions to music

and society making it an essential read for jazz enthusiasts music historians and anyone interested in American history and culture Immerse yourself in the extraordinary life and music of Duke Ellington a true American icon whose legacy continues to inspire and entertain generations If you like this book write a review *Duke Ellington* Rebecca Carey Rohan,2016-07-15 Duke Ellington s masterful big bands left a permanent impression on the nation and his name is one of the most honored in jazz Learn about this Harlem Renaissance artist s life as well as his impact on American culture **The Duke Ellington Reader** Duke Ellington,1993 A collection of writings by and about Duke Ellington and his place in jazz history

Biographical Dictionary of African Americans, Revised Edition Rachel Kranz,2021-01-01 For centuries African Americans have made important contributions to American culture From Crispus Attucks whose death marked the start of the Revolutionary War to Oprah Winfrey perhaps the most recognizable and influential TV personality today black men and women have played an integral part in American history This greatly expanded and updated edition of our best selling volume *The Biographical Dictionary of Black Americans Revised Edition* profiles more than 250 of America s important influential and fascinating black figures past and present in all fields including the arts entertainment politics science sports the military literature education the media religion and many more **African Americans in the Performing Arts** Steven Otfinoski,2014-05-14 Includes profiles of African American performing artists Provides brief biographies subject indexes further reading suggestions and general index Part of a 10 volume set each volume devoted to the contributions of African Americans in a particular cultural field This text contains profiles of some 190 performing artists from choreographer Alvin Ailey to hip hop producer Dr Dre nee Andre Young Each entry provides a biographical sketch of the artist s career and lists readings and other materials of interest The contributions of musicians receive comparatively greater coverage than other artistic endeavors **The Great Black Swamp** Patrick Wensink,2025-11-11 In the summer of 2014 a strange thing happened to one of the largest freshwater bodies on the planet Lake Erie s western shore turned bright green with toxic algae that could have killed 400 000 Ohioans Stranger still it was kind of Patrick Wensink s fault Okay partially his fault but also to blame was industrial corn farming greenhouse gasses the Worst Road In America his attraction to toxic relationships Richard Nixon Charles Dickens cyanobacteria high school bullies and most importantly the untold history of the Great Black Swamp a large swatch of what is now Ohio and Indiana that was once a dangerous malaria ridden wetland Toxic green algae has become a global problem While the scientific community scrambles to find a solution Wensink discovers that the answer might be hiding in his former home a million acres of table flat farmland so desolate that even other Ohioans look down upon it Great Black Swamp Toxic Algae Toxic Relationships and the Most Interesting Place Nobody s Ever Heard Of mixes ecological reporting Midwestern history and memoir As Wensink travels through Northwest Ohio he tells us about his childhood there his failing marriage American history Lake Erie and the hopeful ecological interventions scientists are performing in the former Great Black Swamp **Ebony** ,1999-04 EBONY is the flagship magazine of Johnson Publishing

Founded in 1945 by John H Johnson it still maintains the highest global circulation of any African American focused magazine

Spiritual, Blues, and Jazz People in African American Fiction A. Yemisi Jimoh, 2002 In this book A Yemisi Jimoh demonstrates the critical influence of music on the fiction of various twentieth century African American writers Exploring novels and short stories by Toni Morrison John Edgar Wideman Zora Neale Hurston James Baldwin Ralph Ellison and others Jimoh shows how black musical traditions specifically Spirituals Blues and Jazz are used to shape characterizations and thematic content and to evince ideas emotions and experiences The author's analysis situates the literary texts she discusses within the diverse social energies of their times and locates important intersections where music history politics and literature meet Jimoh carefully distinguishes among the different musical forms and shows how in fiction they are transformed into rich metaphors She explains for example how characters and themes drawing on the Spiritual Gospel tradition de-emphasize human agency depicting earthly survival as a transitory state and heavenly triumph as a victory By contrast in Blues fiction characters must often negotiate an environment of alienation change and uncertainty in order to achieve a more earthly triumph even if that triumph is only survival Jazz fiction meanwhile goes beyond Blues and Spiritual expressions to explore new realms revealing a space for infinite options radical change resistance and revolution This innovative book examines novels that have not previously received extensive attention including Albert Murray's *Train Whistle Guitar* Wallace Thurman's *The Blacker the Berry* and Ann Petry's *The Street* At the same time it brings fresh and intriguing readings to such widely studied works as Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Morrison's *Sula* Finally it suggests some exciting directions for future study as new generations of African American musicians and writers continue to develop and expand on established traditions and forms The Author A Yemisi Jimoh is an associate professor of English at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville Her articles have appeared in *African American Review* *Contemporary African American Novelists* and other publications

America's Songs Philip Furia, Michael L. Lasser, 2006 First Published in 2006 Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis an informa company

NEH and America's Libraries, 1998

The Arts on Television, 1976-1990 Rebecca Krafft, 1991

The Crisis, 1974-04 The Crisis founded by W E B Du Bois as the official publication of the NAACP is a journal of civil rights history politics and culture and seeks to educate and challenge its readers about issues that continue to plague African Americans and other communities of color For nearly 100 years The Crisis has been the magazine of opinion and thought leaders decision makers peacemakers and justice seekers It has chronicled informed educated entertained and in many instances set the economic political and social agenda for our nation and its multi ethnic citizens

The Incomparable Hildegard Monica Storme Gallamore, 2018-04-11 The Incomparable Hildegard 1906 2005 began her career as a pianist in Milwaukee's silent movie theaters which led to the Vaudeville stage By the 1930s she was singing in the cabarets of Paris and London rubbing elbows with royalty White Russians and Josephine Baker She then became a darling of the New York supper club scene and her name became synonymous with high class entertainment at

venues like the Plaza Hotel's Persian Room. She started fashion trends, had her own signature Revlon nail and lip color, and was the first to have song hits in the World War II era. This first biography of Hildegarde Sill covers her 70-year career, including her intimate relationship with her manager Anna Sosenko and emphasizes her importance in 20th-century American popular culture.

Sinatra James Kaplan, 2015-10-29 Just in time for the Chairman's centennial, the endlessly absorbing sequel to James Kaplan's bestselling *Frank: The Voice*. Finally, the definitive biography that Frank Sinatra justly termed *The Entertainer of the Century* deserves and requires. Like Peter Guralnick on Elvis, Kaplan goes behind the legend to give us the man in full, in his many guises and aspects: peerless singer, sometimes powerful actor, business mogul, tireless lover, and associate of the powerful and infamous. In 2010's *Frank: The Voice*, James Kaplan, in rich, distinctive, compulsively readable prose, told the story of Frank Sinatra's meteoric rise to fame, subsequent failures, and reinvention as a star of the stage and screen. The story of *Ol Blue Eyes* continues with *Sinatra: The Chairman*, picking up the day after Frank claimed his Academy Award in 1954 and had reestablished himself as the top recording artist in music. Frank's life post-Oscar was incredibly dense: in between recording albums and singles, he often shot four or five movies a year, did TV shows, and nightclub appearances. He started his own label, Reprise, and juggled his considerable commercial ventures: movie production, the restaurant business, even prizefighter management, alongside his famous and sometimes notorious social activities and commitments.

Where the Dark and the Light Folks Meet Randall Sandke, 2023-06-14 *Where the Dark and the Light Folks Meet* tackles a controversial question: Is jazz the product of an insulated African American environment, shut off from the rest of society by strictures of segregation and discrimination, or is it more properly understood as the juncture of a wide variety of influences under the broader umbrella of American culture? This book does not question that jazz was created and largely driven by African Americans, but rather posits that black culture has been more open to outside influences than most commentators are likely to admit. The majority of jazz writers past and present have embraced an exclusionary viewpoint. *Where the Dark and the Light Folks Meet* begins by looking at many of these writers from the birth of jazz history up to the present day to see how and why their views have strayed from the historical record. This book challenges many widely held beliefs regarding the history and nature of jazz in an attempt to free jazz of the socio-political baggage that has s.

The Origins of Cool in Postwar America Joel Dinerstein, 2017-05-17 An entertaining study of the enduring concept of coolness and the mix of cultures and historical events that shaped it. The New York Times: Cool. It was a new word and a new way to be, and in a single generation, it became the supreme compliment of American culture. *The Origins of Cool in Postwar America* uncovers the hidden history of this concept and its new set of codes that came to define a global attitude and style. As Joel Dinerstein reveals, cool began as a stylish defiance of racism, a challenge to suppressed sexuality, a philosophy of individual rebellion, and a youthful search for social change. Through portraits of iconic figures, he illuminates the cultural connections and artistic innovations among Lester Young, Humphrey Bogart, Robert Mitchum, Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra, Jack Kerouac, Albert Camus,

Marlon Brando James Dean and others We eavesdrop on conversations among Jean Paul Sartre Simone de Beauvoir and Miles Davis and on a forgotten debate between Lorraine Hansberry and Norman Mailer over the white Negro and black cool We come to understand how the cool worlds of Beat writers and Method actors emerged from the intersections of film noir jazz and existentialism Out of this mix Dinerstein sketches nuanced definitions of cool that unite concepts from African American and Euro American culture the stylish stoicism of the ethical rebel loner the relaxed intensity of the improvising jazz musician the effortless physical grace of the Method actor To be cool is not to be hip and to be hot is definitely not to be cool Eminently readable Much more than just a history of cool this book is a studied examination of the very real often problematic social issues that popular culture responds to Publishers Weekly starred review The kind of book that makes learning enjoyable The Wall Street Journal Superb Times Higher Education *Ebony*, 1995-06 EBONY is the flagship magazine of Johnson Publishing Founded in 1945 by John H Johnson it still maintains the highest global circulation of any African American focused magazine

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Table of Contents American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington

1. Understanding the eBook American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 - The Rise of Digital Reading American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington

- Personalized Recommendations
 - American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington User Reviews and Ratings
 - American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington Free and Paid eBooks
 - American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington Public Domain eBooks
 - American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington eBook Subscription Services
 - American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington Budget-Friendly Options
 6. Navigating American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington Compatibility with Devices
 - American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington Enhanced eBook Features
 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 - Interactive Elements American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 8. Staying Engaged with American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 - Setting Reading Goals American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington

- Fact-Checking eBook Content of American Legends The Life Of Duke Ellington
- Distinguishing Credible Sources

13. Promoting Lifelong Learning

- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
- Exploring Educational eBooks

14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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