

## ENTERTAINMENT

## World tunes in for Ellington's 100th birthday

WASHINGTON (AP) — This city of presidents is turning its attention to a duke as jazz lovers and historians observe the centennial of the birth of one of America's most prolific composers, Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington.

The talents of Ellington, who put the country "In a Sentimental Mood" and implored folks to "Take the A Train," are the focus of lectures, performances and other special events in the capital and around the nation. Most of the events are tied to his birthday, April 29.

Both the Kennedy Center in Washington and the Lincoln Center in New York have scheduled numerous concerts honoring Ellington. Other tributes include lectures at the Juilliard School, a series of ballets to his music by the New York Ballet and music festivals at venues from Iowa to Italy.

"Everybody is starving for Ellington projects and Ellington works and Ellington evenings," said Mercedes Ellington, a choreographer who also has arranged works to her grandfather's music.

Some of the interest may be attributed not only to the 100th anniversary of Ellington's birth but to the recent resurgence of swing dancing.

Ellington enthusiasts, however, say it's mainly because people—like the judges who awarded him a Pulitzer Prize this year—are finally appreciating the Duke's genius.

The Pulitzer board said Ellington's body of work "evoked aesthetically the principles of democracy through the medium of jazz and thus made an indelible contribution to art and

culture."

"He is the greatest all-around musician this country has produced," said John Hasse, an Ellington biographer and the American music curator for the Smithsonian Institution.

"The United States has produced a number of superb composers, many great band leaders and conductors, brilliant arrangers and orchestras and virtuostic soloists and accompanists," Hasse said. "But Ellington did all of those things and did them brilliantly."

Ellington lived in Washington until his early 20s. He formed two of his earliest bands, Duke's Serenaders and The Washingtonians, before moving to New York. There, he rose to fame during a time when radio had burst onto the scene and the recording industry was burgeoning.

Ellington absorbed everything around him—sound, ideas, images, colors, textures—and channeled the sensations into his compositions, which included jazz, gospel and Big Band swing, as well as ballet and film scores and Broadway show tunes.

He composed most of his music on a small Wurlitzer piano that accompanied him on tours and he nearly always wrote for the personalities in his orchestra, the Duke Ellington Band, rather than for specific instruments.

"My band is my instrument even more than the piano," Ellington once wrote. "I'm something like a farmer. He plants his seed and I plant mine. He has to wait until spring to see his come up, but I can see mine right after I plant it. That night. I don't have to wait.

That's the payoff for me."

By the time he died May 24, 1974, Ellington had published about 2,000 compositions, but he wrote much more than that. Among his archives preserved at the Smithsonian are 200,000 pages of documents—about half of which are unpublished music.

"Can you imagine acquiring a hundred thousand pages of unpublished

Beethoven music?" Hasse said. "It's just incredible. I regard the Ellington collection as one of the Smithsonian's crown jewels."

Although he died 25 years ago, Ellington continues to attract new fans.

"His stuff is not dated," Ms. Ellington said. "People are still humming those tunes. ... It's just as new today as it was before."



DUKE ELLINGTON



Hope. Progress. Answers.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
Greater Las Vegas Region  
presents

## Entertainers Against Cancer Gala "Singin' For Survival"

The *Whispers*

### HIT SINGLES

"Just Gets Better With Time"  
"And The Beat Goes On"  
"Rock Steady"  
"Say Yes"  
"Lady"



### HIT ALBUMS

"A Toast To The Ladies"  
"Love Is Where You Find It"  
"Just Gets Better With Time"  
"Songs Of Baby Face"  
"Love For Love"

### The Dells



"Stay In My Corner"  
"Oh What A Night"

### ConFunkShun

featuring  
Michael Cooper & Felton Pilate



"Straight From The Heart"  
"Love's Train"

MADALAY  
BAY  
Resort & Casino

Island Ballroom

Business or Cocktail Attire

Friday, July 9, 1999 and Saturday, July 10, 1999 • 8:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - VIP Reception & Autograph Session • 8:00 p.m. Seating Begins

#### VIP Tables \$1,000 (Rounds of Ten)

Includes private reception with food, waitress, best seats, souvenir program, autographs

#### General Table Seating \$750 (Rounds of Ten)

Includes waitress, souvenir program and seating behind VIP tables

#### General Admission \$55

Theatre-style seating behind all tables; no reserved seating

LIMITED TABLE SEATING - BEST SEATS ON FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE BASIS

For Tickets and Information call the American Cancer Society: 798-6877  
Or visit the ACS office at 1325 East Harmon Avenue (at Maryland Parkway)  
Visa, Mastercard, Discover Card and American Express Accepted  
All proceeds to benefit cancer patients through services, research and education programs

### Domino reunites with partner

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Fats Domino and his former partner, trumpeter Dave Bartholomew, were together again for a show at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

Domino, 71, and Bartholomew, 78, drifted apart about 12 years ago to pursue separate careers but did a joint newspaper interview recently and decided to reunite.

Domino played many of his standards Sunday, including "Blueberry Hill" and "Shake, Rattle & Roll." He closed the set with "When the Saints Go Marching In." As the song played out, he bumped the grand piano across the stage with his thighs, just like the old days. When someone tried to take away his microphone, Domino mouthed, "We're not done."

Domino played a little longer, then headed to his trailer as Bartholomew urged the crowd to call him back.