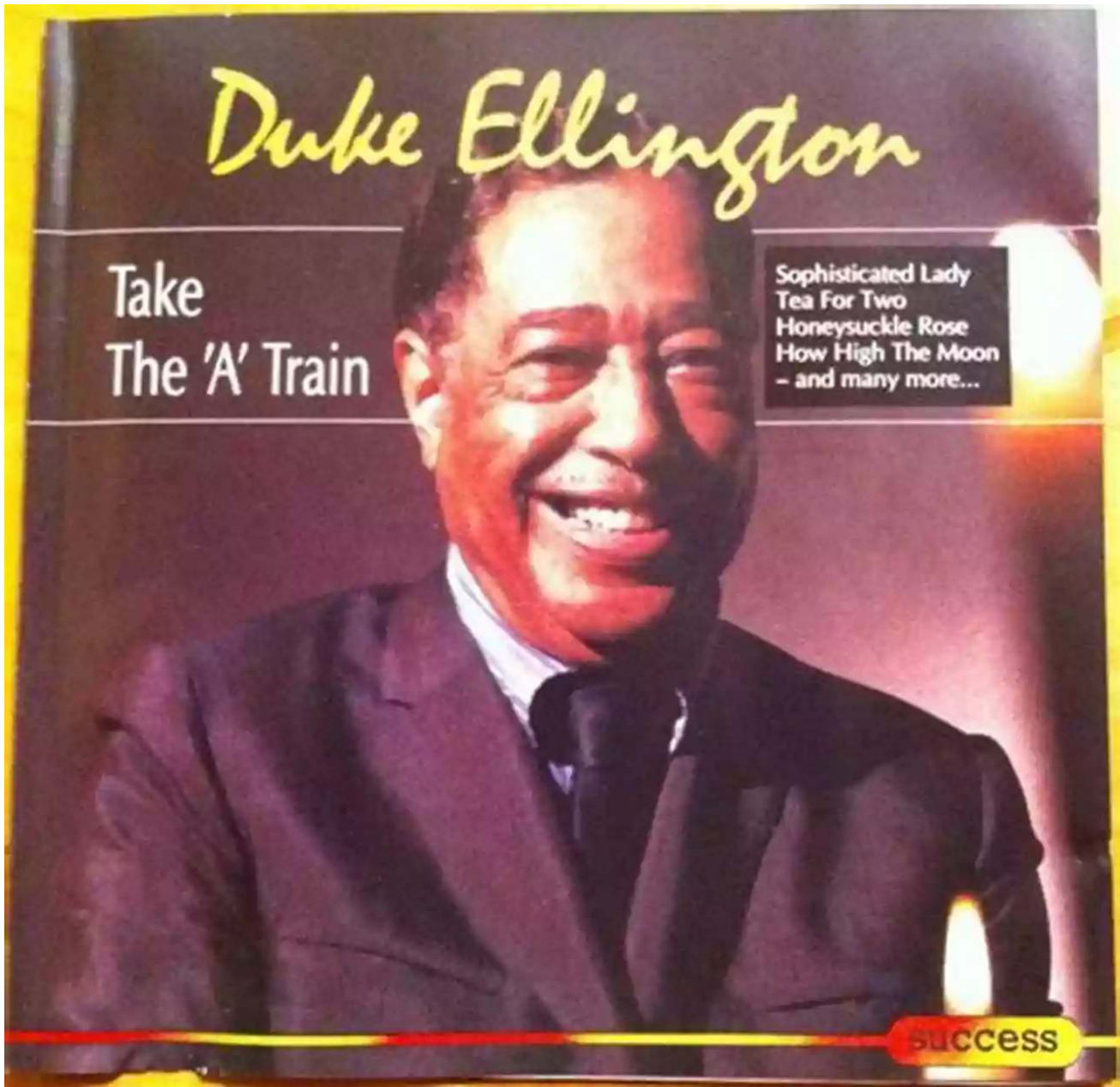


Ten Of My Favorite Songs With Inspirations By Duke

Music has the incredible power to touch our souls, inspire us, and bring us together. Throughout history, legendary musicians have emerged, leaving an indelible mark on the world. Among these musical pioneers, Duke Ellington stands tall as a true genius. Renowned for his groundbreaking compositions and mesmerizing performances, Duke Ellington's music continues to captivate audiences to this day. In this article, I will share with you ten of my favorite songs by Duke Ellington, along with the inspirations behind them.

1. "Take the A Train"

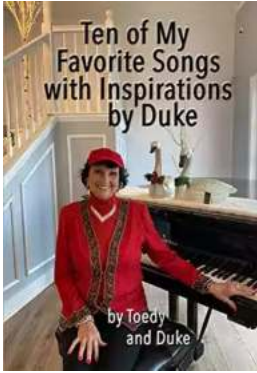


This iconic composition by Duke Ellington became the signature tune of his band, the Duke Ellington Orchestra. Inspired by the subway system in New York City, Ellington wrote this song as a representation of the A train, which was the route to Harlem, the heart of African-American culture in the city.

Ten of My Favorite Songs with Inspirations by

Duke by Dennis Alexander (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5



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2. "Mood Indigo"



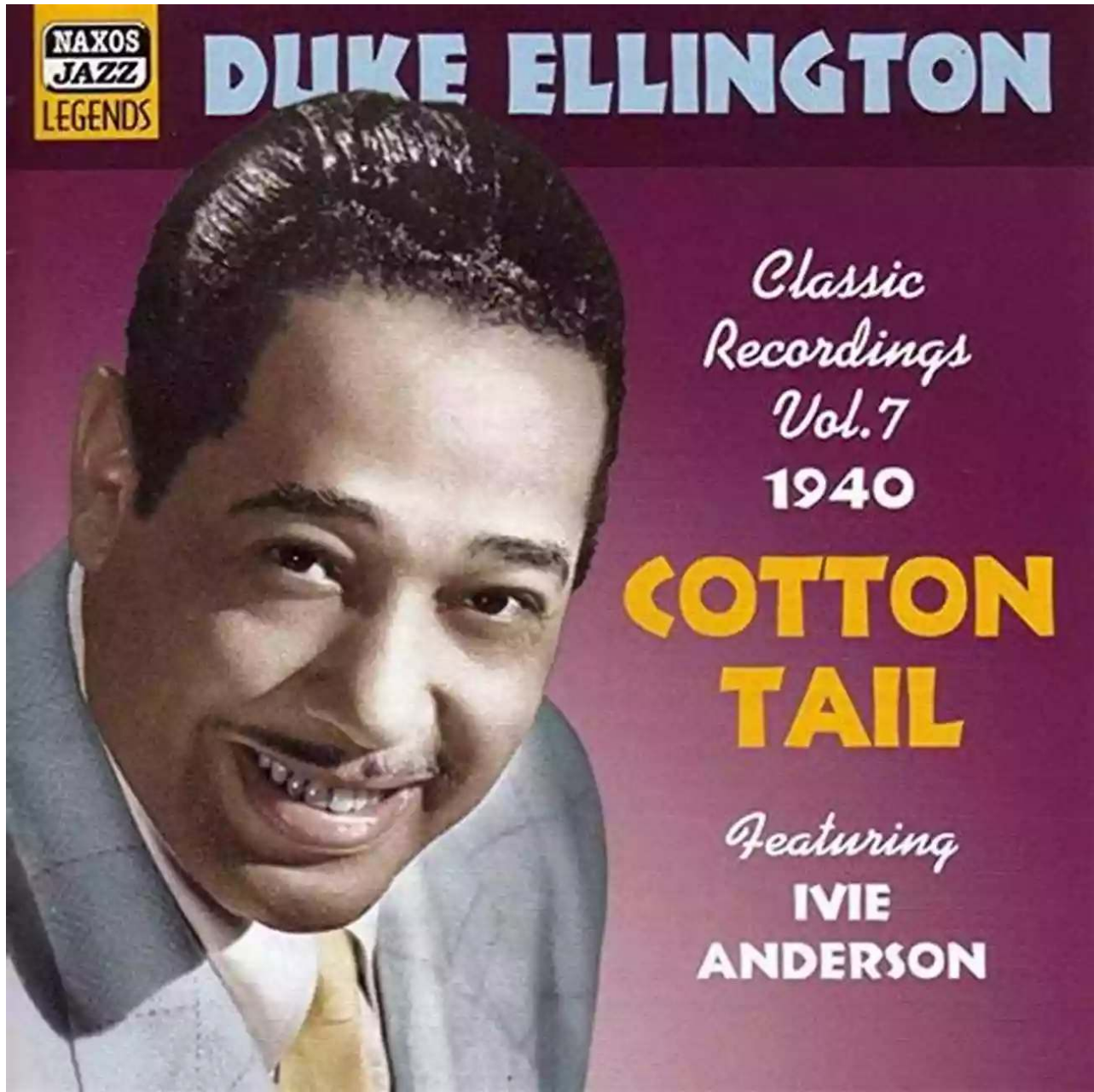
With its soul-stirring melodies and hauntingly beautiful harmonies, "Mood Indigo" is a masterpiece that showcases Duke Ellington's unique musical style. Inspired by Sydney Bechet's clarinet solo, Ellington created this melancholic piece, which perfectly captures the essence of longing and nostalgia.

3. "Sophisticated Lady"



This timeless ballad is a testament to Duke Ellington's ability to evoke deep emotions through his music. It was inspired by Ellington's admiration and respect for women and was originally titled "Don't Get Around Much Anymore." However, after hearing Lawrence Brown play an awe-inspiring trombone solo, Ellington renamed it and dedicated it to all the sophisticated ladies out there.

4. "Cotton Tail"



"Cotton Tail" is a lively and energetic composition that showcases the virtuosity of Duke Ellington's entire band. Inspired by the legendary saxophonist Ben Webster, Ellington created this piece as a tribute to Webster's unique playing style and his nickname, "The Brute."

5. "In a Sentimental Mood"

In A Sentimental Mood

Words & Music by Duke Ellington, Irving Mills & Manny Kurtz

Ballad, freely ♩ = c.70
N.C. 3 straight

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two main sections. The first section is a ballad, marked 'Ballad, freely' with a tempo of approximately 70 beats per minute. It begins with a 'N.C.' (No Chords) instruction and a '3' indicating a triplet. The melody is marked 'straight' and 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The second section is a solo, marked 'Solo, Double-time feel, swung', with a dynamic of 'p' (piano) and 'delicately'. The score includes various chords such as Bm, Em, A7, B9, D6, Bbmaj7, Gm7, Cm7, F7, Bb, A7, G7, C7, F7, Bb9, Bbmaj7, Gm7, Em, Em(ma7), Em7, A7, Bm, B9, Em, A7(b9), D6, Cm7, F7, Em7, A7, N.C., Bm, Bm(ma7), Bm7, Bm9, Em, Em(ma7), Bm, Bm(ma7), Bm7, Bm9, Em, Em(ma7), Em7, A7, Bm, B9, Em, A7(b9), D6, Em7, Em6, F7aug, and Bm.

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This soulful and romantic ballad was composed by Duke Ellington in collaboration with his long-time musical collaborator, Manny Kurtz. Inspired by the ethereal beauty of pianist Mary Lou Williams' solo performance, Ellington crafted a hauntingly beautiful melody that continues to move listeners to this day.

6. "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)"



One of Duke Ellington's most recognizable and influential compositions, "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" became a jazz standard. Ellington was inspired by his frequent collaborator, Ivie Anderson, whose swinging vocals and enthusiasm influenced him to create this anthemic piece celebrating the importance of rhythm and swing in music.

7. "Solitude"



Written during a period of personal reflection, "Solitude" is a deeply introspective composition that reflects Duke Ellington's feelings of loneliness and isolation. Inspired by his own meditative moments, Ellington crafted a piece that resonates with listeners on a profound emotional level.

8. "Black and Tan Fantasy"



Considered one of Duke Ellington's early masterpieces, "Black and Tan Fantasy" is a groundbreaking composition that merged jazz and classical music elements seamlessly. Inspired by a musical revue called *Black and Tan*, Ellington created this innovative piece that challenged the boundaries of musical genres.

9. "Caravan"

Caravan

from SOPHISTICATED LADIES

Words and Music by Duke Ellington, Irving Mills and Juan Tizol

Verse
Moderately fast

1. Night and stars a - bove that shine so
2., 3. See additional lyrics

bright, the mys - t'ry of their fal - ing
light that shines up - on our car - a -

To Coda

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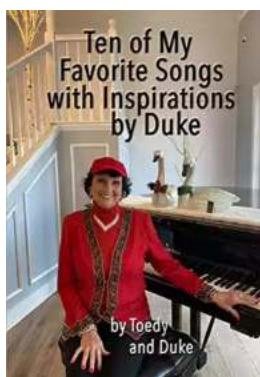
This exotic and mesmerizing composition, "Caravan," was inspired by Ellington's fascination with Middle Eastern music. Inspired by a traveling circus that featured an Arabian theme, Ellington incorporated elements of this captivating culture into his music, creating a song that takes listeners on a musical journey.

10. "Prelude to a Kiss"



This enchanting and evocative ballad, "Prelude to a Kiss," was inspired by a moment of profound love and tenderness. Ellington composed this piece after receiving a letter from a fan who described her first kiss as a magical prelude to everlasting love. Ellington beautifully captured the essence of that sentiment in this mesmerizing composition.

The music of Duke Ellington continues to inspire generations of musicians and music lovers. Through his compositions, he not only entertained but also challenged the boundaries of musical expression. These ten songs represent just a fraction of his vast musical legacy, but they are perfect examples of his genius and the timelessness of his music. So, sit back, relax, and let Duke Ellington's melodies transport you to a world of inspiration, emotion, and pure musical enchantment.



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Hands lifted high, tight family harmony rising into the air. A gentle tear falling from a cheek as the ministry of song impacted a heart previously wounded by life. An altar filled, a backslidden soul's name called out, many prayers prayed. A message delivered with melodies that stuck to you and reminded you that you were not alone. These songs from the pen of Toedy Duke and her family come from their hearts and testify of their great love for their Savior, Jesus Christ.



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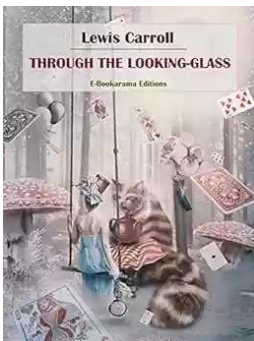
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