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THE  
DUKE ELLINGTON  
LEGACY

CONTACT

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# THE DUKE ELLINGTON LEGACY



**The Duke Ellington Legacy** (8-9 piece Jazz ensemble) was founded by Duke Ellington's grandson **Edward Kennedy Ellington II** and his sister, **Gaye Ellington** in 2003. The Ellington Legacy is dedicated to keeping Ellington's musical oeuvre in the public ear, as well as moving the music forward. Featuring top New York City based musicians, it is a swingin', smokin' and imaginative group.

The Legacy is not a repertoire band. Pianist/chief arranger **Norman Simmons** and saxophonist/arranger/bandleader **Virginia Mayhew** create new interpretations of the music in the Ellington canon, both the familiar and the less-often heard. **Vocalist Nancy Reed** adds a rare insight into the vocal side of Duke's music, and the **3-horn front line** creates a lot of excitement while still leaving plenty of room for personal expression.

In addition to the Legacy's fresh take on the music, guitarist **Edward Ellington II** tells stories from his time on the road with his grandfather.

The Duke Ellington Legacy has performed at numerous festivals, concert halls and clubs, and also makes a special effort to reach out to young people—exposing them to the music, and working with them in seminars and concert preparation. The members of the Ellington Legacy have extensive experience teaching all levels of musicians, and are available for **artist-in-residencies, workshops, and other educational situations.**

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# THE DUKE ELLINGTON LEGACY BIG BAND



Formed in 2009 by **Edward** and his other sister, **Mercedes Ellington**, the **Duke Ellington Legacy Big Band** had its debut performance at a thrilling outdoor concert in **Central Park, New York City**.

With the Legacy band members as its core, the **Duke Ellington Legacy Big Band** features many of NYC's finest jazz musicians, including alto saxophonists **Jerry Dodgion** (Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Frank Sinatra, Count Basie, Herbie Hancock) and **Bobby Porcelli** (Tito Puente, Machito, Mongo Santamaria), tenor saxophonist **Patience Higgins** (Wilson Pickett, Mercer Ellington, Muhal Richard Abrams), and trombonist **Clarence Banks** (Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie, Frank Sinatra).

The Duke Ellington Legacy Big Band carries on the tradition of the legendary Ellington big band with new arrangements and soloists that maintain the emphasis and the essence of classic Ellington.

**“...the arrangements are tight and swinging,  
and the playing is superb.”**

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# THE DUKE ELLINGTON LEGACY HOLIDAY SHOW

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In 1960, Duke Ellington arranged and recorded a swingin' version of the holiday classic, *The Nutcracker Suite*. Fifty years later, the music swings on with Duke's grandson, Edward Kennedy Ellington II, and his critically acclaimed 9-piece ensemble, the Duke Ellington Legacy.

In this special holiday presentation, the **Duke Ellington Legacy Nutcracker Suite & Other Musical Treats**, the group offers their own classic yet fresh versions of Duke's delightfully high-spirited arrangements, plus other musical treats such as a sophisticated reharmonization of *Silent Night*, a funky take on *The Little Drummer Boy*, a wonderful rendition of *Baby, It's Cold Outside* with Norman Simmons and Nancy Reed, and more.

**“There’s more than enough first-rate musicianship, jubilant swing and imaginative ebullience on hand to make this project a spirited success!”**

-David Whiteis, *JazzTimes*

Performances are offered annually **November through December** and are suitable for large concert halls as well as more intimate venues and spaces. Book today to guarantee your festive date!

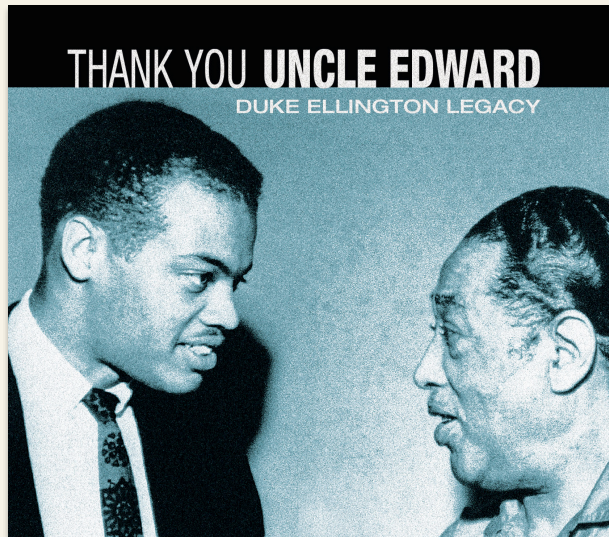
**Clips from the Holiday Show  
on YouTube:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdPi9Xr47a0>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4vTSWOAiZg>

(Or just search YouTube for Ellington Legacy Holiday Show.)

# RECORDINGS



The Ellington Legacy's debut CD, “**Thank You Uncle Edward**”, with special guests **Wycliffe Gordon** on trombone and Ellington alumni **Joe Temperley** on baritone saxophone and bass clarinet, received lots of airplay and many great reviews.

The band's latest recording, “**Single Petal of a Rose**”, features special guest saxophonist, **Houston Person**. With all new original arrangements by Norman Simmons and Virginia Mayhew, as well as two solo piano pieces by Norman Simmons, the new CD is a wonderful addition to the legacy of Duke Ellington.

The CD opens and closes with Norman Simmons' solo renditions of *Single Petal of a Rose* and *Lotus Blossom*. Other songs featured on new recording are *Happy Go Lucky Local*, *In My Solitude*, *Johnny Come Lately*, *Blood Count*, *In a Mellow Tone*, *Upper Manhattan Medical Group*, *Squeeze Me*, *Lush Life*, *Love You Madly*, the classic piano tour de force, *After Hours*, and Norman Simmons' original Blues, *Home Grown*.

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# QUOTES FROM REVIEWS

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“This band has its own unique interpretation of Ellington's music, with arrangements that are fresh, hip and modern, yet the essence is still there.” –**Sheila Elaine Anderson, Author, radio personality WBGO.**

“An important contribution to the preservation of the timeless music from the songbook of the great Duke Ellington....rooted in the past, but of the present moment.” –**Roland Stone, *Accent on Tampa Bay, New Releases Off the Beaten Path***

“...sounds as classic as the day Duke Ellington gave his music birth, while still sounding like a contemporary jazz band...one fine album that transcends time...” –**Susan Frances, *Jazzreview.com***

“*Thank You Uncle Edward* is a welcomed addition of arrangements and interpretation of the music of Duke Ellington.” –**Larry A. Detwiler, *Jazz Improv Magazine***

“Ebulliently playing a wealth of Ellingtonia that touched all manner of moods, the Duke Ellington Legacy showed it's an aptly titled ensemble.” –**Zan Stewart, *Star Ledger, The Newspaper for New Jersey***

“Ellington's legacy is in good hands with this excellent tribute band.” –**Ken Dryden, All About Jazz “Nothing if not swinging!” –Ilya Stemkovsky, *Modern Drummer***

“There's more than enough first-rate musicianship, jubilant swing and imaginative ebullience on hand to make this project a success.” –**David Whiteis, *JazzTimes***

“...the Duke Ellington Legacy sound distinctive without losing the spirit of the original Ellington takes on these tunes... music to sink your ears into with enthusiasm.” –**Joe Lang, *Jersey Jazz***

“**Thank You, Uncle Edward**” was chosen “**new and noteworthy**” by Bob Winberg of *Jazziz Magazine*. Virginia Mayhew’s original, “**Toe Tickler**”, from “**Thank You, Uncle Edward**” was chosen as one of the **Top 10 New Songs of 2008** by **AllAboutJazz.com**.

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# BAND PHOTO & CONTACT



DUKE ELLINGTON LEGACY BAND

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Download available at [dukeellingtonlegacy.com](http://dukeellingtonlegacy.com)

## BOOKING CONTACT:

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