

DUKE ELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL MEETING

# DUKE AND THE LIGHTS

Paris - 28, 29, 30 april 2023



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## A REFERENCE SYMPOSIUM

*Duke Ellington's work represents one of the greatest legacies of the 20th century. Blending the spirit of the blues with the most refined orchestral invention, Duke has always defended the idea of an art for all, built on imagination, elevation and aestheticism.*

Since 1981, Ellingtonian experts from around the world have been meeting every year in order to exchange and share their knowledge about Duke Ellington's work and life.

After the United States, England, Canada, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands, La Maison du Duke welcomes for the first time in France the international symposium dedicated to one of the greatest creators of the 20th century.



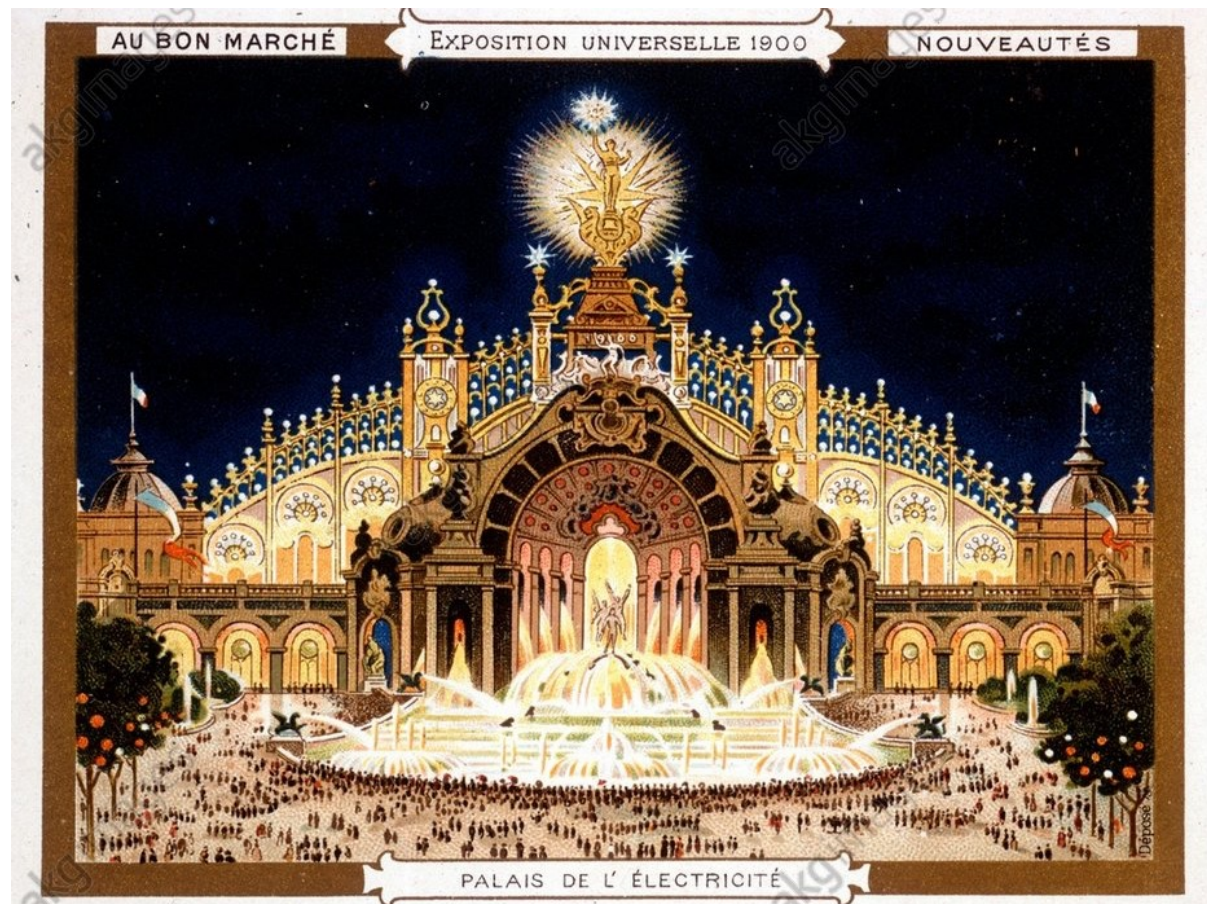
# DUKE AND THE LIGHTS

## Paris, the city of Lights

In 1667, under the reign of Louis XIV, public lighting appeared for the first time in the world.

Impressed, the visitors nicknamed Paris the "City of Light". The first International Electricity Exhibition in 1881 and the Universal Exhibition of 1899 confirmed the brilliance of the French capital.

As for Duke Ellington, he loved Paris and stayed there nearly 20 times from 1933.



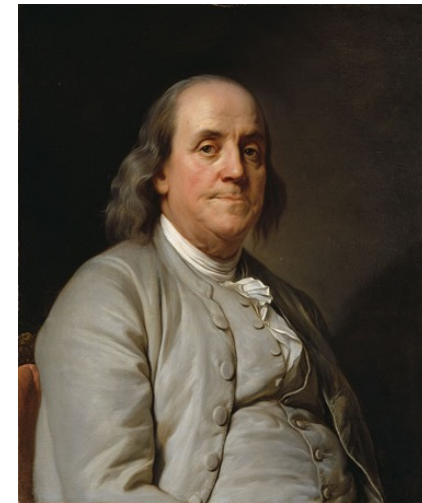
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## DUKE AND THE LIGHTS

### The enlightenments ... shared values

In the 18th century, the thinkers of the Enlightenment conquered a utopia based on values of tolerance, freedom and equality, advocating the emancipation of the individual through critical thinking.

Duke Ellington's values are surprisingly close to those of the enlightenments.



*Benjamin Franklin*

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## DUKE ELLINGTON AND FRANCE

"Few American musicians have had as much connection with France, and Paris in particular, as Duke Ellington. He was very appreciative of the respect and enthusiasm of an audience that he had discovered in 1933 and that he regularly met again, when he came for two or three concerts.

A tireless inventor of beauty, Duke loved the beautiful, the charms of the City of Lights, good food and great French music, from Ravel to Django Reinhardt. His "alter ego", Billy Strayhorn, who also adored Paris, could make frequent visits there. The fascination that France and Paris had on them, more than any other place in the world, was frequently manifested in their musical production." - Claude Carrière



**Duke Ellington à Saint - Sulpice :  
les spectateurs ont envahi la chaire**



Vision rétroactive four sur deux l'église Saint-Sulpice - des spectateurs s'étaient juchés autour de la chaire pour ne rien perdre du concert donné par le célèbre jazzman Duke Ellington dont les œuvres ont été jouées par les élèves.  
(Voir en rubrique spectacle l'article du Patrice de NOSSAC)

**«Et s'ils se mettent à danser?»  
s'inquiétait le vicaire de  
Saint-Sulpice devant les  
fans de Duke Ellington**



**«Je vous salue  
frères» s'est écrié  
Duke Ellington**

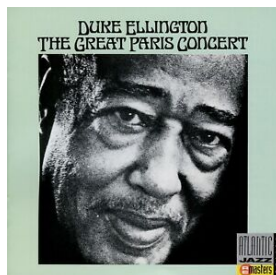
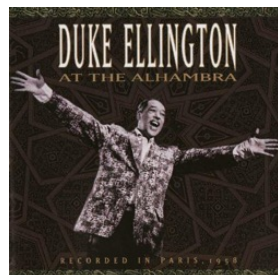
**en s'adressant aux ouvriers et  
aux paysans qui l'accueillaient  
au château de Goutelas en Forez**



**I greet you,  
Brothers !**

# DUKE ELLINGTON AND FRANCE

Limoges  
Sochaux  
Roubaix  
Menton  
Le Havre  
Orange  
Lille  
Juan les Pins  
Rouen  
Bourges  
Saint-Sulpice  
Reims  
Caen  
Théâtre des Champs-Élysées  
Palais des Sports  
Alcazar Paris  
La Défense  
Chaillet  
Goutelas  
Bordeaux  
Besançon  
Saint-Sulpice  
Lyon  
Marseille  
Nancy  
Toulon  
Strasbourg  
Grenoble



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## PROGRAM

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## WELCOME – At Boris Vian's place

Located in the heart of Pigalle, the apartment of the city Véron was the residence of Ursula and Boris Vian, writer, poet, lyricist and singer from 1953. This accommodation presents the particularity of having a large terrace that Boris Vian shared with the poet Jacques Prévert, his next door neighbour.

The 'Maison du Duke' welcomes the delegates for a visit and a drink on the terrace.





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## PRESENTATION - 1933, Ellington's first steps in Paris

*by Jean-François Pitet*

During his first international tour in 1933, Ellington conquered Europe. There he discovered a new audience and an artistic recognition that he had not yet received in the United States. The response in Great Britain, Holland and France exceeded his expectations.



## PRESENTATION - Duke Ellington in Paris

*by John Edward Hasse*

Duke stayed in Paris nearly 20 times. A chronicle of the maestro's little and great stories in the City of Lights.

*« No nation outside of the United States has played as significant a role for Duke Ellington as France - John Edward Hasse.*



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## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION - Duke in Lights

*Chaired by Leïla Olivesi*

Discussions around values for the future ... those of the Enlightenment and those of Duke Ellington

The speakers :

- John Edward Hasse – author, pianist, Smithsonian Institution curator
- Marylin Lester - Duke Ellington Society New York
- Daniel Maximin – novelist, poet and essayist
- Leïla Olivesi – pianist, composer, musicologist
- Laurent Mignard – conductor

*Presentation of Daniel Maximin's latest book*



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## PRESENTATION - Programs of Duke's concerts in Paris

*by Leila Olivesi*

Duke Ellington performed nearly 50 times in Paris. Leila Olivesi unveils the repertoire of the concerts in the City of Lights.



## PRESENTATION - Duke Ellington, Jean Vilar and Turcaret

*by Anne Legrand*

On the night of December 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 1960, Duke Ellington recorded at the TNP (National Theater Popular) the music for the play entitled "Turcaret" by Alain-René Lesage, directed by Jean Vilar. If the recording takes place in a single night, we will come back to his setting up, the investment, the projects and the dreams of the Duke and Vilar that this piece from the beginning of the 18th century arouses. Since 2010, several works have been published with the discovery of new documents. This presentation will be enriched with new archives concerning this meeting of Duke Ellington with Jean Vilar, around the play by Lesage.



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## PRESENTATION - Ellington Researchers' Panel

*by Steven Lasker, Ken Steiner, David Palmquist and Michael Kilpatrick*

Four eminent Duke Ellington experts overview their commitment : their motivation to study Duke's world, the sources and archives each of them has researched and what they have found, how and where they have shared what they have found, some recent finds of notable interest, what they still hope to find...



## CONCERT - Leila Olivesi Septet

At the head of her new orchestra, conductor, pianist and composer Leila Olivesi brilliantly extends a selection of works by Duke Ellington and pays tribute to Claude Carrière.

### ***Line-up***

*Quentin Ghomari – trumpet*

*Géraldine Laurent - alto sax*

*Baptiste Herbin - alto sax – flute*

*Adrien Sanchez - tenor sax*

*Jean-Charles Richard - baritone sax*

*Manu Codjia – guitar*

*Yoni Zelnik – bass*

*Donald Kontomanou – drums*

*Chloé Cailleton – vocal*

*Leila Olivesi – piano – conducting –*

*compositions - arrangements*



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FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 4:15 P.M – MEDIATHÈQUE MUSICALE DE PARIS



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## PRESENTATION - "Around the film Paris Blues"

by Laurent Cugny – Guest: Michele Corcella

If the film of Martin Ritt could be summed up in a Hollywood romance multiplying the clichés, it is by closing the eyes that it becomes exciting. The music performed by a French orchestra propels Duke to the rank of an immense composer and announces the climate of the next Ellingtonian suites.

*"In 1960, I was in Paris to compose the music for the film Paris Blues. The names of Louis Armstrong, Paul Newman, Sidney Poitier, Joanne Woodward and Diahann Carroll appeared in the credits ." - Duke Ellington*

Nominee for the Grammy Award 1962 et Oscars 1962 as the best original soundtrack.



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## PRESENTATION - Django meets Duke

Physical encounters (1939-1946) & Recorded musical similarities (1928-1952)

*by Philippe Baudoin et Loren Schoenberg*

Face-to-face meetings between Duke and Django were not very frequent, even if they were intense – for example the American tour of 1946. But besides these face-to-face encounters, we will compare the musical similarities found in their respective recordings – for instance the famous train imitations: Duke's 1933 *Daybreak Express* and Django's 1937 *Mystery Pacific*. You will discover other hidden but equally astonishing similarities in the work of these two geniuses. Philippe Baudoin will welcome Loren Schoenberg, jazzman and director of the Harlem Jazz Museum, who will play live rarities by Duke and Django and some other Ellingtonian treasures from the famous Savory collection.



## CONCERT

*André Villéger & Philippe Milanta*

The art of the duo on Ellingtonian lands... "A tribute to the Maestro and to the most faithful and inventive soloists of his orchestra. Apart from the desire to pay tribute, we hear here with great joy the great new, serene and rich music of Villéger (tenor sax) and Milanta (piano)." - Claude Carrière.



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SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 10:00 A.M – MEDIATHÈQUE MUSICALE DE PARIS

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## DOCUMENTARY – Ellington in Goutelas

*by Laurent Lukic & Laurent Mignard*

Why did Duke Ellington come in 1966 in the deep countryside in the middle of Forez? Why was he so marked by the castle of Goutelas and by the men who rebuilt it?

[Une poule sur un piano](#) is a citizen documentary rich in common sense and humanism that tells the story of men from all walks of life united for the same ideal: the reconstruction of Goutelas Castle. Workers, intellectuals, farmers, artists from all over the world gave rebirth to this place that was a home of Humanism.



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## PRESENTATION – Julian Priester, Six Months with the Duke

*by Ken Steiner*

Trombonist in the Duke Ellington Orchestra in 1970, Julian Priester recorded the "New Orleans Suite" and has many memories with the maestro's concerts in Paris. Ken Steiner shares his account of Julian's experience in the orchestra and his impressions of France.



## PRESENTATION – Fred Guy

*by Nick Rossi*

Frederick Lee Guy (1897-1971) was a member of the Ellington rhythm section for 25 years, serving initially as a banjoist and subsequently as a rhythm guitarist. This biographical sketch will survey the plectrist's life, his relationships both in and independent of the Famous Orchestra, Ellington's use of Guy, the only full-time banjoist/guitarist in the band during this period, and the role of the banjo and guitar in contemporaneous jazz orchestras, as well as Guy's place in the history of those instruments.





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## PRESENTATION – Ellington at the Juilliard School

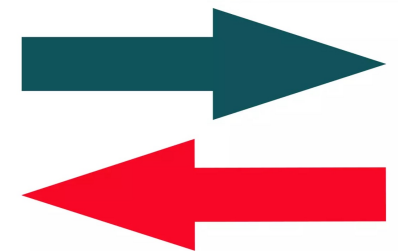
*by Loren Schoenberg*



## PRESENTATION – Midriff: a Musical Palindrome

*by Loren Schoenberg*

One of the most cleverly titled early Strayhorn compositions, Midriff was designed as a sort of a musical palindrome. Orchestrated in the same Fletcher Henderson-ish mode as Take The A Train, Midriff is at once simple and complex. Various versions will be compared, thematic relationships explored, with an emphasis on how Sonny Greer / Louie Bellson / Sam Woodyard approached the explosive drum break at the end.



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# CONCERT - Laurent Mignard Duke Orchestra - 20th anniversary

*by Laurent Mignard Mignard Duke Orchestra – guest : Michael Kilpatrick*

Since 2003, the Duke Orchestra led by Laurent Mignard has been considered one of the best ambassadors of Duke Ellington's legacy. On April 29, Duke Ellington's birthday, in an historical venue (Le Bal Blomet - former Black Ball of the roaring twenties), he will celebrate 20 years of service to one of the greatest geniuses of the 20th century.

On the agenda:

- World premiere of the music of « Boola », Ellington's unfinished opera, based on unpublished scores unearthed from the archives of the Smithsonian Institution by Michael Kilpatrick (live comments)
- Ellington French Touch, the influence of France in the work of the Duke.

*Line up : Didier Desbois, Aurélie Tropez, Olivier Defays, Carl Schlosser, Philippe Chagne, Michael Kilpatrick (saxes, clar), Claude Egea, Sylvain Gontard, Jérôme Etcheberry, Malo Mazurié (trumpets), Nicolas Grymonprez, Michaël Ballue, Jerry Edwards (trombones), Philippe Milanta (piano), Bruno Rousselet (bass), Julie Saury (drums), Laurent Mignard (conducting).*



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SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 8:00 P.M – LE BAL BLOMET

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## COMMENTED WALK – A promenade through Pigalle’s jazz scene during the period between the two world wars

*by Philippe Baudoin*

Between 1918 and 1945, from the cabarets to the music-hall revues, jazz invaded the 9th arrondissement. The greatest American jazzmen of the time stayed in Pigalle: Sidney Bechet, Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Coleman Hawkins, Benny Carter, Bill Coleman, Eddie South, Herman Chittison, Joe Turner, the Mitchell Jazz Kings, etc. Duke Ellington has ventured there in 1933 and 1939. Among the French: Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli, Alix Combelle, André Ékylan, Hubert Rostaing, Aimé Barelli.



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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 11:00 A.M – PIGALLE QUARTER - RESERVED TO THE SPEAKERS OF THE SYMPOSIUM

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## COMMENTED WALK – A promenade through Pigalle's jazz scene during the period between the two world wars

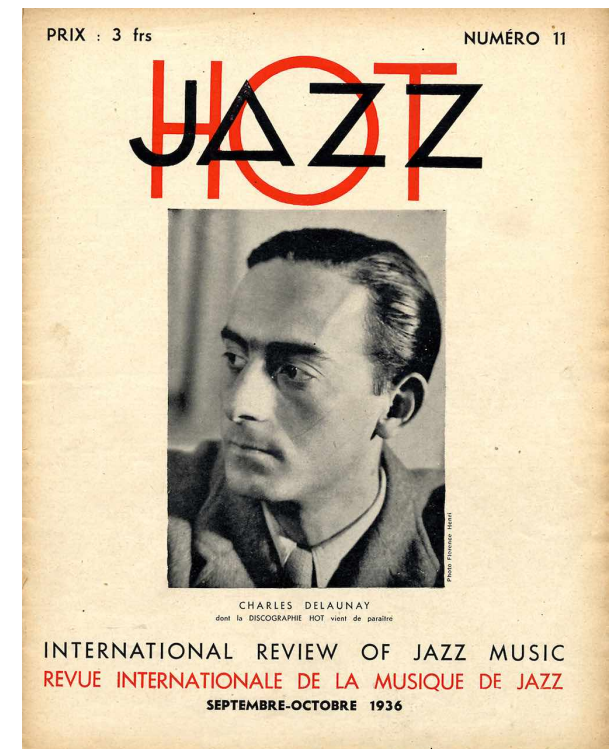
*by Philippe Baudoin*

The Hot Club de France and the magazine Jazz Hot based their headquarters there, which was the essential meeting place for musicians and jazz lovers for many years.

And finally, five Afro-American women entertainers ran important cabarets, attracting a large and distinguished clientele that made jazz a success in the neighborhood. They are Florence Emry Jones, Bricktop, Josephine Baker, Adelaide Hall and Alberta Hunter.

This tour will take you to the places that all these artists frequented.

Philippe Baudoin will superpose on the reality of today's places a rare iconography that will make you discover the true face of a bygone era. As if you were there!



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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 11:00 A.M – PIGALLE QUARTER – RESERVED TO THE SPEAKERS OF THE SYMPOSIUM



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## EDUCATIONAL CONCERT - Duke Ellington for kids

by Leila Olivesi

As part of the weekly program «Jazz et goûter», Leila Olivesi makes discover the extraordinary universe of Duke Ellington.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 3:00 P.M AND 5:00 P.M – SUNSET JAZZ CLUB

## CONCLUSION – LIVE SHOW CASE & JAM SESSION

→ new release « Duke and Billy's New Colors »

Julie Saury, Bruno Rousselet and Fred Couderc, eminent members of the Laurent Mignard Duke Orchestra for 20 years, present an alternative look at the ellingtonian repertoire, full of love and gratitude to the Duke and his partner Billy.

*Line-up : Julie Saury (drums, percussions), Bruno Rousselet (bass), Frédéric Couderc (soprano sax, bass sax, bass clarinet, english horn, flute, alto flute, Bansuri, Ney, Pivana), Sébastien Giniaux (guitar, cello). Guest : Claude Égée (trumpet). Label : Juste une Trace – collection « Ellington Consequences »*

→ Jam Session

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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 9:00 P.M – SUNSET JAZZ CLUB



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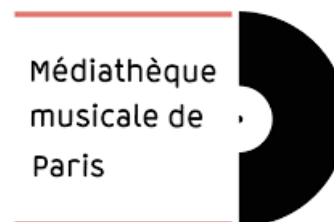
## LOCATIONS

- House of Boris Vian  
*6 Bis Cité Véron 75018 Paris*  
*Metro Blanche*
- Médiathèque Musicale de Paris  
*Forum des Halles, 8 Porte St-Eustache 75001 Paris*  
*Metro Les Halles – meeting point : église Saint-Eustache*
- L'Entrepôt  
*7 Rue Francis de Pressensé 75014 Paris*  
*Metro Pernety*
- Bal Blomet  
*33 Rue Blomet 75015 Paris*  
*Metro Volontaires or Sèvres-Lecourbe*
- Sunset jazz club  
*60 rue des Lombards 75001 Paris*  
*Metro Châtelet*



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## OUR PARTNERS



## DUKE AND THE LIGHTS

See You in Paris !

28, 29, 30 april 2023

[www.maisonduduke.com](http://www.maisonduduke.com)

