

## PRESENTATION

### « Around the film Paris Blues »

Jack Chambers

Friday, April 28 – 8 :15 pm – L'Entrepôt

#### Abstract

*Paris Blues*, Ellington's second Hollywood score after *Anatomy of a Murder*, gave him the scope of composing not only background music but also foreground music, because the plot revolved around expatriate jazzmen in Paris. The link to both sub-genres was the signature tune, *Paris Blues*, an extended work by trombonist Ram Bowen (Paul Newman). At one point, Ram's suitor Lilian (Joanne Woodward) asks, "What is 'Paris Blues'?" Throughout, the main theme recurs in ingenious variations in *Nite* and *Paris Stairs* as well as in direct references.

#### Jack Chambers



Jack Chambers is professor at the University of Toronto, and an author and teacher on music and language. He is a regular presenter at the Toronto Duke Ellington Society and other conferences, including the Birmingham 2018 and the DESS Ellington Meetings 2021 and 2022. His books on jazz include the prize-winning biography *Milestones: The Music and Times of Miles Davis* (1998), *The Incomplete Works of Richard Twardzik* (2008), and *Sweet Thunder: Duke Ellington's Music in*

*Nine Themes* (2019). At Ellington 2023, he will participate in a panel about the film *Paris Blues* with Laurent Cugny and Michele Corcella.