

PRESENTATION
« Duke Ellington in Paris »

John Edward Hasse

Friday, april 28 – 10 :45 am - Médiathèque Musicale de Paris

Abstract

Duke Ellington enjoyed a long and rich association with France, especially its City of Light. No nation outside of the United States played as significant a role for him as did France. Over 40 years, he visited Paris nearly 20 times. From his first visit in 1933 until his last in 1973, the band's performances in France energized Ellington and his bandmembers and made a profound impact on French musicians and music aficionados. He performed in Paris and 26 other French cities; played nearly one hundred concerts; made radio, television, and film appearances and one of his best live recordings; accepted commissions; was feted frequently; composed the score for the movie Paris Blues; produced albums for South African musicians Sathima Bea Benjamin and Dollar Brand; and was bestowed with some of the greatest praise he ever received. For Ellington, the significance of Paris was psychological, social, and musical.

John Edward Hasse



During his 33-year tenure at the Smithsonian Institution, Curator Emeritus John Edward Hasse developed exhibitions on Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, and Ray Charles. He led the Smithsonian's efforts to build the world's largest museum collection of jazz history, including the 200,000-page Duke Ellington Collection. John founded the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, now celebrating its 32nd season, and international Jazz Appreciation Month, celebrated in 40 countries. His books include *Beyond Category: The Life and Genius of Duke Ellington* and *Discover Jazz*. He has written 50 articles on music for *The Wall Street Journal* and is the recipient of two Grammy Award nominations, two honorary doctorates, and two ASCAP awards for excellence in writing on music. John has lectured on leadership, the arts, and music in 25 countries.

His website is: johnedwardhasse.com