

PRESENTATION  
« **Around the film Paris Blues** »

Michele Corcella

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

**Abstract**

Duke Ellington was very talented for making film music, especially in light of his need to compose having always in mind an image, a story or an extra-musical subject. My intervention is based on the original manuscripts Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn wrote for *Paris Blues*, which reveal us some very important aspects of the film production, the link between Ellington and the director and, above all, the original intentions of the composers: in some scenes the music wasn't edited following his ideas. Going further, these manuscripts also exhibit some of the most hidden aspects of the mysterious relationship between Duke and Strayhorn, as some variations made by Ellington on Billy's arrangements, in order to suite better a particular scene. I will show how Ellington decided to match a given member of his orchestra with a particular character or a particular scene or mood. Likewise, I will show how he was very interested in expressing the feelings of the main female characters and how he translated them in music. Finally, in this intervention I will show the limits of Ellington's scoring for movies and I will explain the probable reasons why the film industry did not ask him to compose further soundtracks.

**Michele Corcella**



Michele Corcella is one of the most sought-after Italian jazz composers and arrangers. Besides winning many prizes in international composition competitions, he has worked as arranger/conductor with David Liebman, Kenny Wheeler, Enrico Pieranunzi, Randy Brecker, Steve Swallow, Tom Harrell, John Taylor, Norma Winstone, WDR Big Band, Glauco Venier and Mario Brunello. He is also a specialist on Duke Ellington's composition techniques and has given lectures at the Duke Ellington International Conferences in Amsterdam (2014), New York (2016), Birmingham (2018) and at the International Jazz Composers' Symposium in Tampa (2017). He teaches jazz composition at the Italian conservatory in Bologna.

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