

# Who Was Duke Ellington? The Life and Legacy of a Jazz Legend



## Who Was Duke Ellington? (Who Was?) by M. D. Payne

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 119181 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Print length : 111 pages



Duke Ellington was one of the most influential jazz musicians of all time. His career spanned over six decades, and he composed over 2,000 songs. His music was a blend of jazz, classical, and popular music, and he is considered to be one of the greatest composers of the 20th century.

## **Early Life and Career**

Duke Ellington was born Edward Kennedy Ellington on April 29, 1899, in Washington, D.C. His father was a butler, and his mother was a pianist. Ellington began playing the piano at an early age, and he was soon performing in local clubs.

In 1923, Ellington formed his own band, the Washingtonians. The band quickly became popular, and they soon began touring the country. In 1927, the Washingtonians moved to New York City, where they became one of the most popular jazz bands in the city.

## **The Duke Ellington Orchestra**

In 1931, Ellington renamed his band the Duke Ellington Orchestra. The orchestra was one of the most successful big bands in jazz history, and it featured some of the greatest jazz musicians of the era, including saxophonist Johnny Hodges, trumpeter Cootie Williams, and trombonist Juan Tizol.

The Duke Ellington Orchestra toured the world, and they performed at some of the most prestigious venues in the world, including Carnegie Hall

and the White House. The orchestra was also featured in several films, including "Cabin in the Sky" (1943) and "Anatomy of a Murder" (1959).

## **Later Career**

In the 1950s, the big band era began to decline, and Ellington's orchestra began to lose popularity. However, Ellington continued to compose and perform, and he remained one of the most respected jazz musicians in the world.

In the 1960s, Ellington began to experiment with new musical styles, including electronic music and world music. He also wrote several film scores, including the score for the film "Black Orpheus" (1959).

Ellington continued to perform and compose until his death in 1974. He was 75 years old.

## **Legacy**

Duke Ellington is considered to be one of the greatest jazz musicians of all time. His music was a blend of jazz, classical, and popular music, and he is considered to be one of the greatest composers of the 20th century.

Ellington's music has influenced generations of jazz musicians, and it continues to be performed and enjoyed by people all over the world. His legacy is one of innovation, creativity, and excellence.

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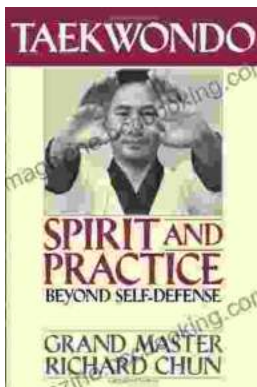
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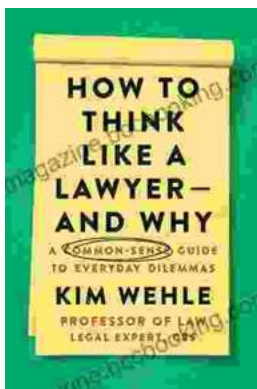
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