

Blues In Orbit is an undervalued gem in the massive discography of Duke Ellington (1899-1974). The predominant color here is blue, and Ellington (not to mention his array of stellar soloists) was masterful when painting in that hue's various musical shades. Recorded in February 1958 and, mostly, in December 1959 at two consecutive post-midnight sessions that took place not long after the Maestro et. al. had returned from a European tour, these performances are tight yet deep, and packed with personality-rich solo turns. Ducal staples like "C Jam Blues" and "In A Mellow Tone" share the spotlight with freshly-minted items like the title track (reflecting Ellington's interest in space travel), "Blues In Blueprint," and the Ellington-Billy Strayhorn collaboration "Smada," on which the latter plays piano. Now containing eight bonus tracks, including a previously unissued alternate take of the title cut, the newly-remastered *Blues In Orbit* soars as never before.



1. THREE J'S BLUES 2:52
2. SMADA 2:36
3. PIE EYE'S BLUES 3:25
4. SWEET & PUNGENT 4:02
5. C JAM BLUES 4:50
6. IN A MELLOW TONE 2:41
7. BLUES IN BLUEPRINT 3:41
8. THE SWINGERS GET THE BLUES, TOO 3:07
9. THE SWINGER'S JUMP 3:51
10. BLUES IN ORBIT 2:27
11. VILLES VILLE IS THE PLACE, MAN 2:31

BONUS TRACKS

12. TRACK 360 2:01
13. SENTIMENTAL LADY 4:00
14. BROWN PENNY 3:00
15. PIE EYE'S BLUES (ALTERNATE TAKE) 3:31
16. SWEET & PUNGENT (ALTERNATE TAKE) 3:50
17. THE SWINGER'S JUMP (ALTERNATE TAKE) 3:49
- *18. BLUES IN ORBIT (ALTERNATE TAKE) 2:37
19. TRACK 360 (ALTERNATE TAKE) 2:01

* PREVIOUSLY UNISSUED

legacyrecordings.com
Duke-Ellington.com



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