



The Duke Ellington Society (TDES, Inc.)

Celebrating the music of Duke Ellington

Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 7:30 PM
Saint Peter's Church
54th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York, NY

Jimmy Owens: What Made Duke Special for Me



When Yale University instituted a permanent visiting fellows program in Duke Ellington's name, some of the trumpeters chosen were Cootie Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Sweets Edison, and Clark Terry. To honor them at a historic concert, a young Jimmy Owens was chosen to pay tribute to the legendary trumpet masters.

Jimmy Owens loved to listen to jazz since he was three years old. He would select 78 recordings from his father's collection and play them on the Victrola.

At 15, Donald Byrd arranged for Jimmy to audition for the Newport Youth Band. His being invited to join the band was an important step in his musical development. By 25, Jimmy had been a sideman with Lionel Hampton, Hank Crawford, Charles Mingus, Herbie Mann, and Duke Ellington.

He recalls the evening at Yale: "I was center stage with some of the greatest men in the history of Jazz.... It reconfirmed for me what I had learned in my travels as an artist. Jazz is the heartbeat of the world."

At our meeting Jimmy Owens will discuss some of his best remembered times with Duke.

President's column	2
Member's Choice	2
Comstock Concert Review	3
At our March Conference	4
How Trivial	4
April 22 concert	5
Member News & Letters	6
Birthdays & Events	7