



# The Duke Ellington Society (TDES, Inc.)

Celebrating the music of Duke Ellington

Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at 7:30 PM  
Saint Peter's Church  
54th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York, NY

## Father Peter F. O'Brien: Mary Lou Williams and Duke Ellington



by Anthony Barboza

Mary Lou Williams, often called the First Lady of Jazz, was one of the significant pianists, composers, and arrangers of the 20th century. Duke Ellington had a high regard for her, as the quotation on the last page of this newsletter reveals. The admiration was mutual.

Over the years, there were many links between these two great musicians. Williams contributed arrangements to Ellington's big band books. She was one of the small group of musicians who performed at his funeral.

Peter F. O'Brien, S.J, a Roman Catholic priest, met Mary Lou Williams in 1964, when he was 23 and she 53. He became her personal manager in 1970 and now serves as Executive Director of the Mary Lou Williams Foundation, an organization she established in her last year of life.  
[www.marylouwilliamsfoundation.org](http://www.marylouwilliamsfoundation.org)

Rev. O'Brien will illustrate some of the links between Duke and Mary Lou with at least ten pieces of music, many of which most of us have never before heard.

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**Save Wednesday, December 20, for the TDES Holiday Party at 7:30 PM with Joe Temperley and Friends (Junior Mance, Leroy Williams, Kengo Nakamura)**

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[www.thedukeellingtonsociety.org](http://www.thedukeellingtonsociety.org)