



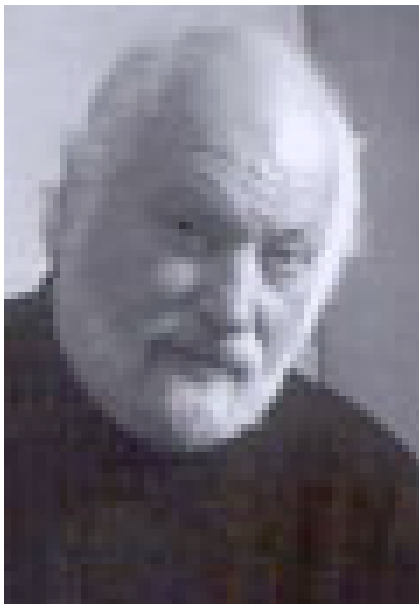
# The Duke Ellington Society (TDES, Inc.)

Celebrating the music of Duke Ellington

Wednesday, November 14, 2005, at 7:30PM  
Saint Peter's Church—54th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York, NY

## **MAURICE PERESS: ELLINGTON'S SYMPHONIC WORKS, THE ARRANGER'S ROLE, AND THOUGHTS ABOUT BILLY STRAYHORN**

Maurice Peress is an ideal person to discuss Duke's symphonic works; he has conducted Ellington's symphonic works in the United States and abroad. He knew both Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn and arranged several of their works for symphony orchestras. He is the author of *Dvorak to Duke*, a book that explores America's music and its African-American roots.



"I was first introduced to Duke in 1965 by Strayhorn at the White House Festival of the Arts," Peress explains. "LBJ was the President."

"I met Duke again that summer when he conducted *Golden Broom and Green Apple* with the New York Philharmonic. I was the assistant 'cover' conductor."

Duke hired him to orchestrate a *Black, Brown, and Beige Suite*, which Maestro Peress premiered with the Chicago Symphony in 1969. Peress subsequently arranged and conducted other Ellington works both during Duke's life and afterward.

This will be Maurice Peress's third appearance at TDES. The previous events were stimulating and informative and opened up new perspectives on Duke's work. We expect that our next meeting will be an event you won't want to miss.

Ellington asserted that his music was "beyond category." The symphonic works are evidence of that claim.

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