



The Duke Ellington Society (TDES, Inc.)

Celebrating the music of Duke Ellington

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 20, 2005, at 7:30 PM *
Saint Peter's Church
54th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York, NY

“What Else Can You Do With A Drum?”

Kenny Washington on Sonny Greer, Louie Bellson, and Sam Woodyard



Kenny Washington

The consummate percussionist Kenny Washington will be our guest this month. He will be guiding us through an examination of the styles of Ellington's three most important drummers: Sonny Greer, Louie Bellson, and Sam Woodyard. Kenny will bring plenty of musical examples from his legendary recording collection and will also demonstrate the style of each of the percussionists. Don't miss this opportunity to hear a master drummer discuss the contributions of the Ellington band's rhythm engines!

Kenny Washington is a musician, educator, historian, and radio personality. Born in Brooklyn, he studied with Rudy Collins (former drummer for Dizzy Gillespie) and attended New York's LaGuardia High School for Music and Art. While still in his teens, Kenny worked with Lee Konitz and recorded with the saxophonist's nonet in 1977. He worked with Betty Carter from 1978-9 and Johnny Griffin in 1980.

Since then, Kenny Washington has compiled an enormous discography as he continued to perform on sessions with many of jazz's most prominent figures: Clark Terry, Benny Carter, Dizzy Gillespie, Kenny Burrell, Milt Jackson, Lionel Hampton, Benny Goodman, Ruby Braff, Tommy Flanagan, and Ron Carter just to name a few of these greats. Most recently, Kenny can be found performing and recording as a member of the celebrated Bill Charlap Trio.

Kenny Washington hosted a radio show on WBGO in Newark, where his infectious enthusiasm for the music reached thousands. He has written liner notes for and contributed to the preparation of reissues of music by Art Blakey, Count Basie, and Dizzy Gillespie, among others. He also has taught jazz drumming at the New School in New York City.

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* Come at 7:00 PM to hear Tyler Schwartz and his friends play for us. Or socialize in the back of the room.