



The Duke Ellington Society (TDES, Inc.)

Celebrating the music of Duke Ellington

Wednesday, November 16, 2005 at 7:30 PM
Saint Peter's Church
54th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York, NY

Ira Gitler: Gitler on Ellington



Ira Gitler, one of the world's foremost authorities on jazz, will discuss how he came to Ellington's music, experiences of hearing Duke's band in person, and some meetings with Duke, in person and on the phone. He will also mention Mercer Ellington and some of Duke's sidemen. Gitler will play some music—Ellington and others playing Duke's music, including unissued material.

As a writer, Gitler has been professionally involved with jazz since 1951, when he wrote notes for a Zoot Sims LP. Since that time, he has annotated countless albums for all the major labels and most of the important independents into the CD era.

Gitler's books include *Jazz Masters of the Forties*, reissued in a revised edition as *The Masters of Bebop*. He has co-authored *The Encyclopedia of Jazz in the Seventies* and *The Biographical Encyclopedia of Jazz*, both with Leonard Feather. He has also produced recordings and concerts. In addition, he taught Jazz History at City College in the early and mid 1970s, and at the New School (1986–94), and he has been a faculty member at the Manhattan School of Music since 1992.

Many TDES members are familiar with Gitler's work as 1960s New York editor of *Down Beat* magazine and his freelance articles in many publications. This meeting is an opportunity to hear Ira Gitler in person.

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