

# N DUKE ELLINGTON LEGACY UTCRACKER SUITE & OTHER MUSICAL TREATS

In 1960, Duke Ellington arranged and recorded the highly swingin', holiday classic, "The Nutcracker Suite." Fifty years later, the music swings-on with Duke's grandson, Edward Kennedy Ellington II, and his critically acclaimed 9-piece ensemble, the Duke Ellington Legacy. In this special holiday presentation, the "Duke Ellington Legacy Nutcracker Suite & Other Musical Treats", the group offers their own classic modern versions of Duke's delightfully high-spirited arrangements, plus other musical treats such as: a sophisticated harmonization of "Silent Night", a smooth funky take on "The Little Drummer Boy", and more. Performances are offered annually November through December and are suitable for large concert halls as well as more intimate venues and spaces. Book today to guarantee your festive date!

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“There’s more than enough first-rate musicianship, jubilant swing and imaginative ebullience on hand to make this project a success!”

-David Whiteis, *JazzTimes*

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The Duke Ellington Legacy, initiated by Ellington's grandchildren Edward Kennedy II, and his sister, Gaye Ellington, in 2003, is dedicated to keeping Duke's music alive and growing in the 21st century. Featuring top New York City-based musicians, the Ellington Legacy is a swingin', smokin', imaginative and spiritually enticing group.

The Legacy is not a repertoire band. Pianist/chief arranger Norman Simmons, and saxophonist-arranger-band leader Virginia Mayhew

create new interpretations of the music from the Ellington canon, both the familiar and the less-often heard.

In addition to the Legacy's fresh take on the music, guitarist Edward Ellington tells stories from his time on the road with his grandfather, and vocalist Nancy Reed, singing the lyrics in her beautiful and soulful way, adds a not-so-often heard side of Duke's music.

The Ellington Legacy's debut CD, "Thank You Uncle Edward", with special guests Wycliffe Gordon on trombone and Ellington alumni Joe Temperley on baritone saxophone and bass clarinet, received lots of airplay and many great reviews.

In addition to performing at festivals and in concert halls and clubs, the Legacy makes a special effort to reach out to young people by exposing them to the music and working with them in seminars and concert preparation. The members of the Ellington Legacy have extensive experience teaching all levels of musicians, and are available for artist-in-residencies, workshops, and other educational situations.

**Booking:**

Please contact **Virginia Mayhew** at: [booking@dukeellingtonlegacy.com](mailto:booking@dukeellingtonlegacy.com). For additional resources, please visit us online at [www.DukeEllingtonLegacy.com](http://www.DukeEllingtonLegacy.com).