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| Ellington, Duke (1899 – 1974) |
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| Duke Ellington was an American jazz composer, pianist, and big-band leader who authored over 1000 compositions throughout his musical career. Ellington maintained engagements at notable New York City nightclubs and performance halls, including the Cotton Club in Harlem during the Jazz Age of the 1920s, to the Savoy Ballroom during the big-band culture of swing jazz during the 1930s and 1940s After moving from his native Washington, D.C. and settling in New York City in the 1920s, Ellington soon became one of the leading musical figures in the Harlem Renaissance. Once avante-garde jazz had fully emerged in the 1960s, he recorded full length studio albums in quartet and trio settings with high modernists John Coltrane and Charles Mingus, and continued to tour the world with his own orchestra throughout the 1970s. Giddins and DeVeaux (2009) argue that Ellington’s compositions have been the most performed pieces in jazz written by any one composer. |
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