

PLANET D NONET

This recording is dedicated to my old partner Scott Strawbridge, a true brother in music. His absence is felt every day.

— RJ Spangler

Echoes of Harlem: A Salute to Duke Ellington Vol 2 is a heartfelt tribute to the legendary Duke Ellington and follows the tremendous success of Planet D Nonet's previous album, *Blues to Be There: A Salute to Duke Ellington*.

Blues to Be There: A Salute to Duke Ellington (2023) performed exceptionally well, reaching **#16 on the JazzWeek chart** and surpassing PD9's previous record with their Strayhorn CD, which peaked at #17 in 2016. The album also topped the **Roots Music Report Jazz and Big Band Jazz Chart** for twenty-three consecutive weeks peaking at #1 on both charts. The album also enjoyed 15 weeks on the **NACC Top 30 Jazz Chart**, peaking at #1 overall.

Garnering significant airplay, the recording appeared on national "Best of" lists, including LA-based writer Scott Yanow's **"THE TOP JAZZ RECORDINGS OF 2023,"** the Michigan Roots Music Report's **Top 200 of 2023** (#4), and Eric Hines's WNCM Radio list (#1). JazzWeek ranked it **#55 in their top 100 of the year**, while the NACC chart placed it at **#11 for the year end chart**. Most recently, it was listed in the top 30 of 2023 on CJAM-FM's "The Freedom Principle." Mike Stratton of WKAR in Lansing, MI included it in his top ten for 2023, and Paul Donovan at KUVU in Denver ranked it #7 in his top ten for 2023.

An organic evolution of *Volume 2*. While touring for the previous CD, Planet D Nonet continued adding new charts to their repertoire, realizing by last summer they had enough material for *Volume 2*. The project evolved organically, with some songs drawn from the movie *Anatomy of a Murder*, performed during a special tour of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where Duke himself once played. James O'Donnell's performances with the East Side Rhythm Rascals inspired the inclusion of *"Echoes of Harlem"* and *"Azalea,"* arranged by Jeff Cuny. Collaborations with Andrew Homzy and Jeff Cuny brought *"Rocks in my Bed"* from the Ellington collection at the Smithsonian, featuring the vocals of **Camille Price**.

Tbone Paxton delivers a spirited rendition of *"Caravan"* using a head arrangement from their live gigs. Rick Steiger suggested *"La Belle Plus Africaine,"* showcasing Duke's modern compositions toward the end of his career. **Trevor Lamb** arranged this track, highlighted by a special photo of him with Ellington bassist John Lamb. This project has been a profound experience, blending historical reverence with personal connections and contemporary interpretations.



- 1) Happy Anatomy, arranged by Trevor Lamb 2:20 solos: Charlie Miller (trumpet) & Chris Tabaczynski (tenor sax)
- 2) Flirtibird by Duke Ellington, arranged by Jeff Cuny, 2:28 solo: Alex Colista (alto sax)
- 3) Rocks in My Bed by Duke Ellington, 5:56 Composed by Duke Ellington & Billy Strayhorn adapted by J. Cuny solos: Alex Colista, Tbone Paxton, Chris Tabaczynski, vocal: Camille. Original chart courtesy of the Smithsonian, thanks to Andrew Homzy
- 4) Echoes of Harlem aka "Cootie's Concerto" by Duke Ellington, arranged by Jeff Cuny, 4:28 solo: James O'Donnell
- 5) Addi by Duke Ellington, arranged by Joshua James, 3:43 solo: Alex Colista (alto)
- 6) Blood Count by Billy Strayhorn, arranged by Jeff Cuny, 4:17 solo: Alex Colista (alto)
- 7) Juniflip, arranged by Jeff Cuny, 6:59 solos: Charlie (flugelhorn), Alex Colista (alto), Goode Wyche III (bari), Michael Zavorski & Trevor Lamb
- 8) Azalea by Duke Ellington, arranged by Jeff Cuny, 4:53 solos: Michael Zavorski, Trevor Lamb & James O'Donnell vocal: James O'Donnell
- 9) La Belle Plus Africaine, arranged by Trevor Lamb, 10:20 solos: Alex Colista (clarinet), Trevor Lamb, Goode Wyche III, Alex Colista (clarinet)
- 10) Caravan by Ellington, Mills, Tizol, arranged by the band, 8:13 solos: Alex Colista (alto), Charlie Miller (flugelhorn), Goode Wyche III (bari sax), Chris Tabaczynski (clarinet, Michael Zavorski (piano), trades with Sean Perlmutter (drums) Vocal: Tbone, Sean Perlmutter on cowbell, James O'Donnell on maracas
- 11) Frustration by Duke Ellington, arranged by Jeff Cuny, 4:49 solo: Goode Wyche III (bari)
- 12) I'm Gonna Go Fishin' aka Main Title of Anatomy of a Murder by Duke Ellington, arranged by Jeff Cuny, 4:02 solo: James O'Donnell
- 13) Happy Reunion by Duke Ellington, arranged by Jeff Cuny, 4:37 solo: Chris Tabaczynski (tenor)
- 14) The Shepherd (Who Watches Over the Night Flock) by Duke Ellington, Duke Ellington Music, arranged by Jeff Cuny, 7:34 solo: James O'Donnell
- 15) Sophisticated Lady by Duke Ellington 4:06 Arranged by Michael Zavorski, solo piano by Michael Zavorski.

Total Running time: 79:23

James O'Donnell trumpet, flugelhorn, vocals & maracas, coleader

Charlie Miller, trumpet, flugelhorn

John "Tbone" Paxton, trombone, vocals

Alex Colista, alto sax, clarinet

Christopher Tabaczynski, tenor sax & clarinet

Goode Wyche III, bari, alto saxes

Michael Zavorski, piano

Trevor Lamb, string bass (except 1 & 3)

Sean Perlmutter, drum set, cowbell

RJ Spangler, congas, small percussion instruments, bandleader

Special guests:

Camille Price, vocal

Kurt Krahnke string bass tracks 1 & 3

RJ Spangler, Executive Producer

RJ Spangler, co-producer

Ryan Strawbridge, co-producer

Josef Deas, engineer

John "Tbone" Paxton associate producer

S. Chris Dellopoulos & Drew Hill, band crew

John Penney, WRCJ, liner notes

Chuck Andersen, photos

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<http://www.bigskyrecording.com/>

<https://rjspangler.com/pd9.php>

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One Sheet by:

