

Side One:

1. LADY IN BLUE 3'30"
(Duke Ellington — Irving Mills)
2. ME AND YOU 4'36"
(Duke Ellington)
3. DON'T GET AROUND MUCH
ANYMORE 3'54"
(Duke Ellington)
4. FREEDOM I 3'20"
(Duke Ellington)
5. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT ME 4'56"
(Duke Ellington)

Side Two:

1. SOMEBODY CARES 4'32"
(Duke Ellington)
2. WARM VALLEY 5'51"
(Duke Ellington — Bob Russell)
3. I DON'T MIND 5'22"
(Duke Ellington)
4. JUMP FOR JOY 3'34"
(Duke Ellington)

MUSICIANS: *Trumpets:* Americo Belotto, Bertil Lövgren, Jan Allan (also Quintet/Sextet), Håkan Nyquist (also French horn). *Trombones:* Torgny Nilsson, Lars Olofsson, Bertil Strandberg, Sven Larsson (also Tuba). *Reeds:* Arne Domnéus (also Sextet), Claes Rosendahl, Lennart Åberg, Ulf Andersson, Erik Nilsson. *Piano:* Nils Lindberg. *Guitar:* Rune Gustafsson. *Bass:* Red Mitchell. *Drums:* Nils-Erik Svensson.

Recorded in Studio 4 Swedish Radio, Stockholm
on November 26 & 27 1974 • Engineered and
mixed by Ola Kejving



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"He guided us to possibilities that we ourselves didn't believe were possible."

Alice Babs about Duke Ellington

They met the first time in 1963 for a TV show in Sweden. This was followed, a few weeks later, by a recording date in Paris. Duke had quickly discovered that her voice was a magnificent Ellington instrument.

And more than that: after having heard the last take of the session he said: "This voice embodies all the warmth, joy of life, rhythm and tragedy that, for me, is the innermost secret of jazz."

How could this be?

One part of the answer is that Duke, through the medium of the gramophone, had been her principal teacher of music ever since Alice was in her teens. Another that she has always been extraordinarily talented, in fact unique. Which Duke acknowledged in his autobiography. There is also something in what she recalled about him. "He said 'You can' — and you found that you could."

Her career proves her versatility: teen-age movie star and popular vocalist, jazz singer and night club entertainer. In London as well as in Los Angeles. With a discography of more than 700 recordings, including best-selling LPs with music by Bach and Mozart.

The collaboration with Duke continued and, in 1968, when she was soloist at the premiere of his *Second Sacred Concert*, a New York critic declared that she had become one of the famed Ellingtonians.

In 1973 she sang with the Ellington band at the Newport Jazz Festival, and towards the end of that year she was the chief soloist at the presentation, in London's Westminster Abbey, of the new *Third Sacred Concert*.

During two one-nighters in Malmö and Copenhagen, directly following the London appearance, she and the band collaborated for the last time under the Maestro's direction in a jazz program.

The next Ellington concert for Alice was a memorial one, staged by the Royal Academy of Music in Sweden in November 1974. The newly elected member Alice Babs paid a musical tribute to the departed member Duke Ellington. Nils Lindberg, who had greatly impressed Duke at the Malmö and Copenhagen concerts, fronted a big band as pianist/arranger in nine Ellington songs, from "Jump for Joy" with its original lyrics to "There's Something About Me Without You" — a song he had written especially for her, a song that nobody but Alice has.

Here is that tribute, from a great lady of songs, to her teacher, idol, favourite composer and friend. She has, perhaps, never been better.

Frank Hedman

