

Duke Ellington Writing Musical History Of Negro

New York—Duke Ellington is working on plans for a production of his musical narrative history of the Negro.

"The musical foundation," he indicated during his recent stay at Birdland, "will be *Black, Brown and Beige*. I've added, however, a chorus and dancers. The sound part of the work will be done in oratorio fashion with the troupe of dancers pantomiming and dancing the development of the music.

"Several major singers I've talked to are enthusiastic about the project. I can't talk specific dates with them until I know myself when I can do it. But among those singers who are interested are William Warfield, Larry Winters, and Margaret Tynes. Janet Collins, the leading ballerina of the Metropolitan, is also enthusiastic.

"We even have buyers for it—buyers before the production!—who would underwrite it. We can travel with it like with a concert presentation. But if we could set it down on the Main Stem for a while, that wouldn't hurt me or anybody else.

"I originally thought I would do it this fall, but since I'm doing the tour with Dave Brubeck and Gerry Mulligan, it'll have to be after that, and possibly that's when I'll be able to undertake it—right after the tour.

"Actually," concluded Duke, "I am such an optimist, I keep my fingers going in so many things—call me tentacles, for short."

Palladium Story Will Be Filmed

London—England's renowned music hall, the Palladium—lucrative mecca for American recording stars—will be the subject of a movie.

The producer will be Henry Ginsberg, in association with the Moss Theater Enterprises, operators of the Palladium, and Val Parnell, its managing director.

The plan is for the Palladium's history to serve as the base of the script which will involve essentially a revue-type production.

No names of prominent entertainers who will appear have been divulged. Efforts will be made, however, to sign as many as possible of the stars who have appeared at the Palladium. The movie will be filmed in London, Hollywood, and New York.

On The Cover

Symphony Of Air To Play New Ellington Work; Duke Leader

New York—Duke Ellington has been invited to conduct his own orchestra and the Symphony of the Air (the former NBC Symphony) in a concert at Carnegie Hall March 16. The Ellington evening is part of a series of Symphony of the Air Concerts at Carnegie Hall this season.

Featured at the concert will be the world premiere of a new Ellington work, *Night Creature*. The composition is described by Ellington as a tone parallel for piano, jazz band, and symphony orchestra. The program will also include Ellington's *Harlem Suite* and his *New World A Comin'*, with the composer as soloist.

In all three compositions, the Ellington band will be integrated with the Symphony of the Air. It is also reported that the Voice of America and the Armed Forces Radio Service will transcribe the concert for