



# The Duke Ellington Society (TDES, Inc.)

Celebrating the music of Duke Ellington

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at 7:30 PM \*  
Saint Peter's Church  
54th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York, NY

## Harlan James: Duke Ellington's Legacy A Challenge for Listeners and Players

Come to our March meeting to hear Harlan James speak, play the piano, and present recordings. He will demonstrate how Ellington's music, rooted in the blues and East Coast ragtime or stride piano traditions, extends into the future and presents challenges to both listeners and players. The main challenge is to approach Duke's music on its own terms, free of preconceptions and definitions.

The presentation will be free ranging, with reference to Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk, and Randy Weston, among others, including recorded selections and demonstrations at the piano, concluding with a mini solo piano recital. In short, James notes, "I'll talk some, I'll play some records, and I'll play some piano. I hope that seasoned Ellingtonians will find it engaging, but I'm keeping in mind the newer and younger members."



Harlan James has been a member of The Duke Ellington Society since 1996 and is currently a member of the TDES board. For the past five decades he has been a professional piano and keyboard player, arranger, and composer. He has worked in a wide variety of styles and venues, including the Chicago jazz scene of the early 1960s, rhythm and blues (while on staff at Chess records), musical theater, the Catskills hotels, musical director at Rodney Dangerfield's Night Club, private parties ("club dates"), and, currently, senior centers and nursing homes. He notes, "On the gig, I play the music the situation calls for; at home and in special circumstances, like this presentation, I can play the music that means the most to me."

Those of us who have heard Harlan James at past meetings look forward to hearing him again.

**NOTE:** Nat Hentoff, originally scheduled for March, had to cancel his appearance.

Inside	page
President's column .....	2
The Digital Jungle .....	2
Talk by Basilio Serrano .....	3
How Trivial .....	3
Duke for Beginners.....	4
Tootin' Through the Roof .....	5
TDES News .....	6
Birthdays & Events .....	7

\* Come at 7:00 PM to hear Tyler Schwartz and his friends play for us. Or socialize in the back of the room.