



*BLACK AND TAN FANTASY –
DUKE ELLINGTON*

Presentation by John Paul Oei

THE MUSIC



THE COMPOSERS

- *Duke Ellington*
 - was born in Washington D.C. as Edward Kennedy Ellington in 1899 (Jim Crow)
 - Formed his band in 1919, and co-wrote *Black and Tan Fantasy* in 1927
 - It instantly became a part of his band's identity, much like *East St. Louis Toodle-o*



THE COMPOSERS

- *Bubber Miley*
 - Was Born in South Carolina as James Miley in 1903
 - Stayed on when Ellington took over the *Washingtonians*
 - Co-composed *Black and Tan Fantasy* and *East St. Louis Toodle-o*
 - Was a master of the plunger and had a distinctive "growling" sound



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- *Black and Tan Fantasy* was written during the time of Jim Crow laws
- Were upheld in the court case *Plessy vs. Ferguson* (“Separate but equal”)
- Segregation – including in the military, Federal workplaces, and even in public transportation – promulgated anti-black racism



MUSICAL ANALYSIS

- Style: New Orleans (Dixieland) Jazz
- Even though it is a blues - it is still upbeat (dancing/marching)
- Very distinctive “Duke” style (Growling trumpet, piano interlude, everyone can show off their strengths)
- Quotes liberally Chopin’s “Funeral march”



PURPOSE

- “Black and Tan” clubs were speakeasies during the prohibition period
- Catered to Black and Tan (mixed) people
- Theming of the song was to give the vibe of a Black and Tan club – sad and unfulfilled



EVOLUTION

- Featured in the 1929 film *Black and Tan*
- Rearranged into *The New Black and Tan Fantasy* 1938





THANK YOU

Questions?