

# Why Some People Think **Duke Ellington** Is a Member *of the* Royal Family.

## KIDS DON'T GET ENOUGH ART THESE

**DAYS.** Not in their schools. Not in their communities. They don't have enough access to theater, poetry or jazz. So you can see why some kids might confuse a jazz legend named Duke with royalty named duke. But it's time to set the record straight. It's time to get hip to a new kind of groove.

## HEAR YE, HEAR YE. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, SIR DUKE.

His name was Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington. He didn't wear a crown. He didn't rule over a small English state. Instead he ruled with an orchestra that blew the roof off the joint. He reigned over jazz institutions like



Royal dukes are squaresville, man. They have no rhythm. And they wear crowns.

Harlem's Cotton Club. And his music spread across town — and across the world — with songs like "Sophisticated Lady," "In a Sentimental Mood"

and "Mood Indigo." By the time he was telling folks to "Take the 'A' Train," Duke Ellington and his orchestra were sitting on



A piano player. A composer. An orchestra leader.  
 Duke Ellington reigned over a land called Jazz.

the throne of jazz royalty.

He riffed powerfully on the piano, but it was the full orchestra that he considered his most compelling instrument. He introduced improvisation to his compositions, a process unheard of using a 15-piece orchestra. He developed a gritty sound using growling trombones, high-note trumpets and sultry saxophone chords. The end result was a nontraditional approach to jazz that sparked both a revolution and an evolution. No doubt about it,

cat, Duke Ellington's musical influence was vast. From his now-legendary concert at the 1956 Newport Jazz Festival. To his work in theater and film. To his collaborations with Sinatra, Fitzgerald, Coltrane and Mingus. His brand of jazz has contributed significantly to the great American songbook and to the lives of anyone who's ever tapped their foot to a beat.

## JAZZ IS ART. ART IS JAZZ. DIG?

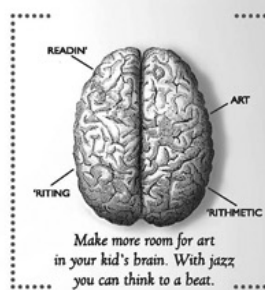
The arts transform lives. In fact, the more a kid gets, the more knowledgeable that kid can become in subjects like math and science.

Everything is affected.

Everything is related.

So make sure your kids get their daily dose of art. Take them to a museum, a dance

performance, a jazz concert. They'll be less likely to confuse a duke with *the* Duke. And they'll be more well-rounded, finger-snapping members of society, daddy-o. For Ten Simple Ways to get more art in kids' lives, visit us at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org).



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