
PAUL ELLINGTON

To: Commodore Mia Thompson

1923 was a momentous year. The world witnessed the opening of King Tut's tomb, the first issue of Time magazine was published, the first home game of my beloved New York Yankees was played in their new stadium, the famed Northeast Harbor Fleet was established and the world famous Duke Ellington Orchestra played their first of many performances.

That's right, the Duke Ellington Orchestra and Northeast Harbor Fleet share a 100th birthday this year! I'm especially happy that Duke's Small Band and I are joining you to celebrate this centennial anniversary. We are happy and honored to be here.

In the band you have Dave Gibson a fabulous New York based drummer. JJ Shakur, one of the great bass players today. Robert Redd from Maryland who is Fantastic. Andre Hayward is one of the most gifted trombone players I have heard. Last but not least, we have Shelley Paul, nicknamed 'The Show Stopper'.

Shelley and my father, Mercer Kennedy Ellington were very close. Musically if I could have had Shelley's gifts I would have been the perfect son. Personally, I have always thought of Shelley as family.

This is going to be a special day - everyone is very excited.



- Paul Ellington

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