

## **EDDIE DURHAM - Maestro of Southwestern Swing Music**

Arranger Composer, Guitarist, Inventor, Trombonist (1906-1987)

### **ARCHIVAL MUSEUM, MEMORIAL PARK & ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL - San Marcos, TX USA**

You are invited to a Dedication, Memorial and Endowment to the late inventor, guitarist, trombonist, composer and arranger, **Eddie Durham**, whose outstanding impact on the history of Swing Music, warrant monumental recognition. Your support is also being commissioned.

**Eddie Durham** was born into a family of musicians in San Marcos, Texas, their heritage being Mohawk, Irish and Cherokee. Their humble musical training began with their father, Joe Sr., a Texas Square Dance Fiddler, as well as in their school bands, Circus bands and minstrel shows. In 1921 **Eddie Durham** came to New York with the 101 Wild West dramatic Circus where he began developing 7-part harmony on trombone. By 1924, **The Durham Brother's Orchestra** were the house band to Mamie Smith's 711 Show. By the time of his death in 1987, **Eddie Durham** traveled the World several times over and established, with his Charts, a new idiom of Jazz music called "Swing".

The **Calaboose African American Museum** plan to present a spectacular Festival, Celebration and Educational Experience, kicking off next Spring. The San Marcos City Council has contributed fundamental funds, legal services and advertisement. The Southwestern TX University will contribute their facilities for events. Your contribution will afford us in promoting and endowing the proposed memorials and activities to "**Eddie Durham, the Maestro of Southwestern Swing**", in developing the **Memorial Park** and the **Cephas House** (a separate archival Museum) and in alluring the best of **talent** to the Festival.

Contributions to the "**Calaboose African American Museum**" (a 501c3) is tax deductible (form and return envelope are included). We thank you immensely for your generosity and we hope to see you there!

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### ◆ **COMPOSER & ARRANGER**

◆ Eddie joined Walter Page's Oklahoma Blue Devils Orchestra in 1927 where his southwestern music roots are established.

◆ Joined Bennie Moten's Kansas City Orchestra, writes 80% of the music and records with them in 1929 on electric guitar; Vouched Count Basie in as his co-writer in 1931. Famous "Victor" label recordings made 1932.

◆ As The Count Basie Orchestra, they record for "Decca" label in 1937. Their collaborated compositions set the standard and created the idiom known as "Swing Music", now a national treasure and commodity in this Country.

◆ Joined Jimmie Lunceford's Orchestra in 1935 and composes, scores and records on electric guitar with them in 1937.

◆ Composed/Arranged: Topsy 1 & 2 (used

◆ *in the Star Wars 'bar scene'), Good Morning Blues (Basie's Autobiography title); Lunceford's Special; John's (Hammonds) Idea; Every Tub; Harlem Shout; Oh Boy; Oh Eddie; Lafayette (the 'battle' song in Altman's "Kansas City" film); Moten's Swing (Swing Music anthem); Magic Carpet; Swingin the Blues; Blues In The Groove; It's Time to Jump and Shout; Sent For You Yesterday and Here you come Today and I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire. For Glenn Miller, he wrote Sliphorn Jive; Glen Island Special; Wham! Re Bop Boom Bam and arranged In the Mood (N.A.R.A.S. Hall of Fame) and Tuxedo Junction.*

◆ These standards are as familiar to the average American as Duke Ellington's music. Ken Burns recent TV Series on Jazz, features many of these Durham compositions.

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### **GUITARIST**

- ◆ Eddie invented amplification on his guitar using a resonator (recorded on it in 1935).
- ◆ Won “All American Poll” for his solo on “Honey Keep Your Mind On Me” in 1938.
- ◆ Demonstrated guitar to Charlie Christian (who debuts with B. Goodman in 1939); also demonstrates it to Floyd Smith.
- ◆ Records earliest Guitar solos on “Band Box Shuffle”(1929), “Boot It” (1930), “New Vine St. Blues”, “Jones Law Blues”, “Hittin the Bottle” (1935), “I Want a Little Girl”.
- ◆ John Hammond, talent scout, sponsored The Kansas City 5 & 6 recording sessions (1938), featuring Eddie Durham on electric guitar, to replace the piano.

### **TROMBONIST**

- ◆ Durham’s technique of non-pressure never left marks on his lips.

- ◆ Durham was consistently ‘sounded’ to rehearse, arrange and write for brass, reed and rhythm sections across color lines, for the notable Swing bands such as Harry James, Cab Calloway, Artie Shaw, Jan Savitt, Willie Bryant and Andy Kirk.

### **MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

- ◆ Years before Title IX, Eddie arranged for the female bands “Swing All Stars” and “International Sweethearts of Rhythm”. He was commissioned by Eleanor Roosevelt to arrange and direct her U.S.O. ensembles to entertain soldiers. Eddie’s eldest brother Joe, Jr. served in WW-I as Musical Director for the homecoming Roughriders and his youngest brother Roosevelt, in WW-II as a Musical Director.

### **DOCUMENTARY APPEARANCES**

- ◆ Durham appears in the films “*Last of the Blue Devils*” and “*Born to Swing*”.

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We expect to create a Jazz Commemoration Festival, creating work for musicians, while honoring Texas, the original home of many great musicians and composers, such as Blind Lemon Jefferson, Leadbelly, Scott Joplin, Illinois Jacquet, Herschal Evans, Ornette Coleman, Teddy Wilson, Joe Sample, Charlie Christian, John Carter, Hubert Laws, Buddy Tate, King Curtis, Budd Johnson, Buster Smith, Hot Lips Page, Harry James, Jack Teagarden, Dan Minor, Kenny Dorham, Larry Coryell, Joe Keyes, Herb Ellis.

This is a monumental project and I'm sure many would agree, long overdue. It will not be possible without private donations. No amount is too small or too large. Attached you will find a front page article from the San Marcos Daily Record, detailing this project as well as a map of the site.

Please feel free to check our websites for updates or contact:

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**A THOUSAND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT !**

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