

As a young man, the Swedish Ellington specialist and jazz researcher Jan Bruér managed to get into the rehearsals for the telecast concert by Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald at the Cirkus in Stockholm on February 8, 1966. He brought with him his camera and in this article he shares his memories of the event and also some of the pictures he took. There are more of his pictures from Cirkus in the password protected Ellington Archive of the website. Members of DESS get the password automatically.

Among other things, Jan Bruér in his article remembers the following:

"I managed to get seated close to the stage in order to get photos of the members of the orchestra close up. But soon I discovered that Ellington was looking at me slightly irritated when I used my super-8 film camera, which made a smattering noise. With his sensitive hearing he was apparently bothered by the unusual sound of a Super-8 camera in a recording studio. It was a little bit like the smattering of a machine gun in the distance. So I stopped filming and used only my rather ordinary 6x6 camera to take pictures.

Duke accepted this since I was not the only one to take pictures. There was also Norman Granz, among others, who was busy with his high-quality Hasselblad camera. I think that some of his pictures were used on the cover of LP (and later CD) with recordings from the concert, which later issued on the Pablo label.

He is seated to the right in the picture of the trumpet section."