

It would take until 1966 before the result of the sessions in Studio Hoche on February 28 and March 1 was by Reprise. The album was called 'Alice Babs & Duke Ellington - Serenade To Sweden' with record number RS 5024. For unknown reasons, the record was issued only in Europe.

The Swedish record company Telestar also got the rights to issue the record and this was done on Telestar TRS 11 100.

Both issues are identical to content and cover and have the same liner notes written by Alice Babs' friend Ragnvi Gylder, who was present at the recording sessions.

Now, 40 years later, a CD has been issued on the Real Gone Music label.

During the hectic sessions in Paris, almost 100 takes were made but all of them are of course not complete.

Out of the sixteen songs recorded, fifteen found their way to the record. *Things Ain't What They Used To Be* was not included.

Some of the melodies are well-known and often recorded Ellington songs like *Serenade To Sweden*, *Azure*, *Come Sunday*, *C-Jam Blues*, *I Didn't Know About You*, *Satin Doll* och *I'm Beginning To See The Light*.

*La De Doody Doo* is an Ellington composition from the 30's and the only other recording of it was done by Ivie Anderson in 1938. Perhaps, it was a song Alice Babs had heard already as a teenager?

*Take Love Easy* was composed by Ellington for Beggar's Holiday but it has been performed by Ellington only on a handful of occasions. The telecast Indigo was one of them.

*Something To Live For* is an early composition by Billy Strayhorn from 1939 (with Ellington as co-composer). Also, rarely performed by Ellington.

*The Boy In My Dreams* is composed by Mercer Ellington. The original title is *The Girl In My Dreams*".

*Stoona* was a new Ellington song and Ellington recorded it only twice. The second time was a stockpile session in May 1963.

*Untitled Lullaby* is credited to Ellington but it must be considered more as an improvisation of the moment than a formal composition.

Many of the alternative takes are as good as those which were chosen for the record and we like to share some of them with members of DESS. They are available in the Goodies of the Month section of the website.

This time we have chosen six alternative takes: *Azure* tk7, *Satin Doll* tk 1, *Untitled Lullaby* tk 2, *Take Love Easy* tk 2, *C-Jam Blues* tk 1 and *Serenade To Sweden* tk 7.

The first three were recorded on February 28 and the others on March 1.