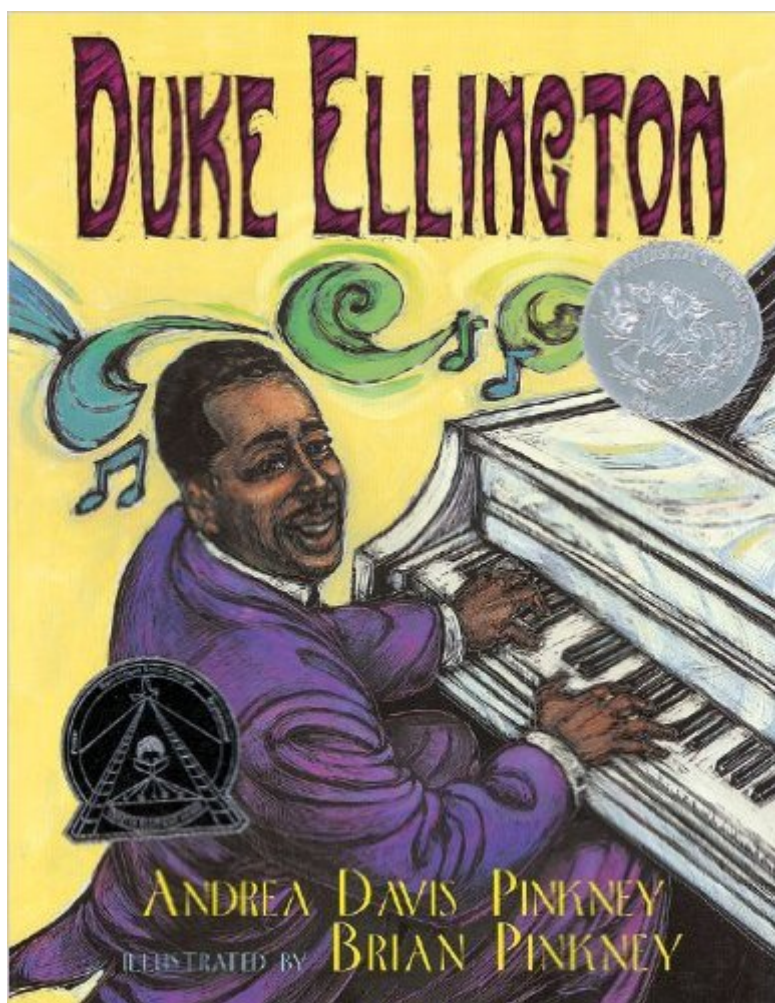


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# Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince And His Orchestra (Caldecott Honor Book)



## Synopsis

The award-winning author/illustrator team of Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney--creators of the popular picture book "Alvin Ailey"--now present a swinging, vibrant picture book about the jazz composer Edward Kennedy Ellington, better known as "Duke" Author/illustrator publicity .

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 800L (What's this?)

Series: Caldecott Honor Book

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Jump At The Sun; 1st edition (March 3, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786801786

ISBN-13: 978-0786801787

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.5 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,699,148 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz](#) #402 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical](#) #511 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States](#)

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

Being a relatively new reader of children's books, I tend to go about my systematic reading of all good picture books out there in a backwards manner. Case in point, Andrea Davis Pinkney. I first came across this writer, and her talented hubby Brian, through their lovely, "Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuoso". It was through that book that I discovered that the art of scratchboard (remember having to do those in elementary school?) can produce some truly fabulous picture book art. After reading "Ella" I doubled back and found her 1999 Caldecott Honor winning baby, "Duke Ellington". The book that started it all. Also using scratchboard (and without relying on fictional talking felines ala "Ella") the book is a whirlwind biography of one of the world's jazzy greats. There are tons of picture books about jazz musicians out there today. Only one, however, has garnered both the Coretta Scott King Award and the Caldecott Honor. In this tale we meet Duke from his baseball playing days in Washington, D.C. Children everywhere will sympathize when Duke decides

that learning to play the piano is a waste of his time and that he'd much rather be out and about with his friends. Fast forward a couple years and an older pool shooting Duke hears the sweet sounds of ragtime for the very first time. Suddenly the piano doesn't sound so lame, and Duke teaches himself the rudiments of it immediately. Over time, his particular style and talents get him jobs in clubs and cabarets and at last he forms his own band. From here on in the book's a whirlwind series of visits to places like the Cotton Club (which I think illustrator Brian Pinkney probably failed to base after the real club itself) and, at long last, New York's Carnegie Hall in 1943.

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