



AP Wirephoto

JULIE EISENHOWER AND DUKE ELLINGTON
As she left, he played 'Satin Doll'

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Julie Brings Letter to the Duke

Washington

Duke Ellington returned yesterday to the midtown capital area where he grew up. He played some of his familiar songs for several hundred inner-city school children and for Julie Nixon Eisenhower.

Mrs. Eisenhower said he is "one of my heroes." She brought a letter from her father, President Nixon, addressed to "his excellency the Duke of Ellington."

The letter said in part, "There'll never be another you."

The performance was part of the artists-in-the schools program. It is supported on a matching basis by the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Office of Education.

Pianist Marian McPartland played Billy Strayhorn's

"Take the A Train," the Ellington theme song, with four members of the Duke's orchestra.

Then Mercer Ellington announced it was time to bring on his father, who played "A Train" again, then launched into "Mood Indigo."

The several hundred school students bused in from city schools applauded loudly.

Edward Kennedy Ellington is 74, but at the piano he was as youthful as ever as he swung into "Caravan."

Then Mrs. Eisenhower produced the letter from her father, thanking Ellington for serving on the National Council on the Arts.

As Mrs. Eisenhower left the stage, the Duke wound up with "Satin Doll."

Associated Press