

SUCH SWEET THUNDER Ellington Shakespeare Marsalis

"Marsalis and the other musicians did a masterful job of recreating the suite...For sheer musical beauty, one of the highlights of the concert was "The Star-Crossed Lovers," [the trombone solo] tribute to Romeo and Juliet."

TWIN-CITIES
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inspired by William Shakespeare
composed by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn
orchestrated by Delfeayo Marsalis



Composed in 1957, *Such Sweet Thunder* is a long form study broken into identifiable miniatures that could stand alone as tunes. But this one was far more unlikely than Ellington's other suites, with its focus on characters developed by William Shakespeare. Ellington was a master of sectional polyphony, making sure his band's sections swung individually and then in tandem with the other sections, creating a powerful, sometimes swirling swing. But he had Strayhorn, who was a master of creating moods and ambient textures. *from Andrew Bartlett's review of the original recording.*

The 21st century jazz producer and trombone master, Delfeayo Marsalis, most aptly presents Ellington's masterpiece, having studied both orchestration and the works of Shakespeare at the graduate level.

The arrangements retain Ellington's huge genius while scaled down from a big band format to a powerhouse octet, conducted by Marsalis himself. All who experience *Such Sweet Thunder* will forever remember this musical tribute to the great masters, Ellington and Shakespeare...by Marsalis.