



# PAN PIPES [Sigma Alpha Iota]

## SPRING 2018

**K**nown as one of the foremost composers of American art songs, Duke Ellington (1899-1974) wrote over 1000 compositions spanning a career of more than 50 years. The listener will enjoy the selections presented here which include some of his best known tunes along with some lesser known works, including four sacred songs. All arrangements were written specifically for the duo of Talamantes/Dehlinger. They include those by Larry Ham, Caren Levine, and Marvin Mills, as well as several by pianist Dehlinger himself. The interaction between the two artists is comfortable, conveying Ellington's wide range of emotions, all making the listener feel as though they are included in an intimate setting along with the artists.

Soprano Danielle Talamantes is equally comfortable in a variety of musical settings, including opera, oratorio, and as a solo recitalist, as in this setting. She is the winner of several prestigious prizes. Her voice is supple and powerful, and her rendition of these Ellington songs is brilliant. She is joined by the sophisticated piano performance of Henry Dehlinger. Equally comfortable as piano soloist or as collaborative pianist, this disc proves him to also be a gifted arranger. Together the duo gives a stunning performance capturing the brilliance of these Duke Ellington songs.

The recording quality is excellent, and listeners will likely want to spend time playing it over and over again. They will also appreciate the extensive liner notes which are included. — *Kim McCormick*

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