

First page of a research paper in MLA format

Diagram illustrating the formatting of a document page, showing margins, spacing, and indentation.

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Text Content:

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Humanities 2710
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Ellington's Adventures in Music and Geography

In studying the influence of Latin American, African and Asian music on modern American composers, music historians tend to discuss such figures as Aaron Copeland, George Gershwin, Henry Cowell, Alan Hovhaness, and John Cage (Brindle; Griffiths 104-39; Hitchcock 173-98). They usually overlook Duke Ellington, whom Gunther rightly calls "one of America's great composers" (318), probably because they are familiar only with Ellington's popular pieces, like "Sophisticated Lady," "Mood Indigo," and "Solitude." Still little known are the ambitious orchestral suites Ellington composed, several of which, such as *Black, Brown and Beige* (originally entitled *The African Suite*) *The Liberian Suite*, *The Far East Suite*, *The Latin American Suite*, and *The Afro-Eurasian Eclipse*, explore his impressions of the people, places, and music of other countries.

Not all music critics, however, have ignored Ellington's excursions into longer musical forms. Raymond Horricks compared him with Ravel, Delius, and Debussy:

The continually enquiring mind of Ellington ... has sought to extend steadily the imaginative boundaries of the musical form on which it subsists ... Ellington since the mid-1930s has been engaged upon extending both the imagery and formal construction of written jazz (122-123).

Ellington's earliest attempts to move beyond the four-minute limit imposed by the

Bottom Margins:

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First page of a list of works cited in MLA format

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Works Cited

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