

Kaen Patton

Advisor Dr. Clayton Parr

FURSCA, Summer 2024

End of Summer Report

Hello, I'm Kaen Patton, a rising sophomore at Albion College, and this summer I worked on researching a historical event at Albion College. The event featured Duke Ellington and his orchestra performing with the Albion College Choir in Goodrich Chapel on October 18, 1966. This performance was one of many major performance events in Albion, these events were made possible by David Strickler, the choir director of the Albion College Choir from 1943-1976. Mr. Dave (as his student called him) sought out these artists to give his students a chance to experience a diverse range of music. This event stands out in particular because the college choir had the opportunity to perform alongside the jazz legend. The story of this event is fading from living memory and not widely known among current students. My goal was to document and honor the memory of this event so our campus is aware of this piece of our school's history and the work the Choir Director, Dave Strickler, did for his students. I intended to use this research to create a digital archive for the school library, a physical display in the Music department, and an article for the *Io Triumphe*. These outcomes would allow students to see and access information on this event easily.

Throughout my research, I dove into many mediums. I had many areas of research to cover to understand the impact this event had on the college and community. To start, I focused on Duke Ellington's life and influence on jazz and American history. I used sources from the Albion College Library, the Albion District Library, and online. With this research, I wrote a short 10-page biography covering Duke Ellington's life and major compositions. I then focused

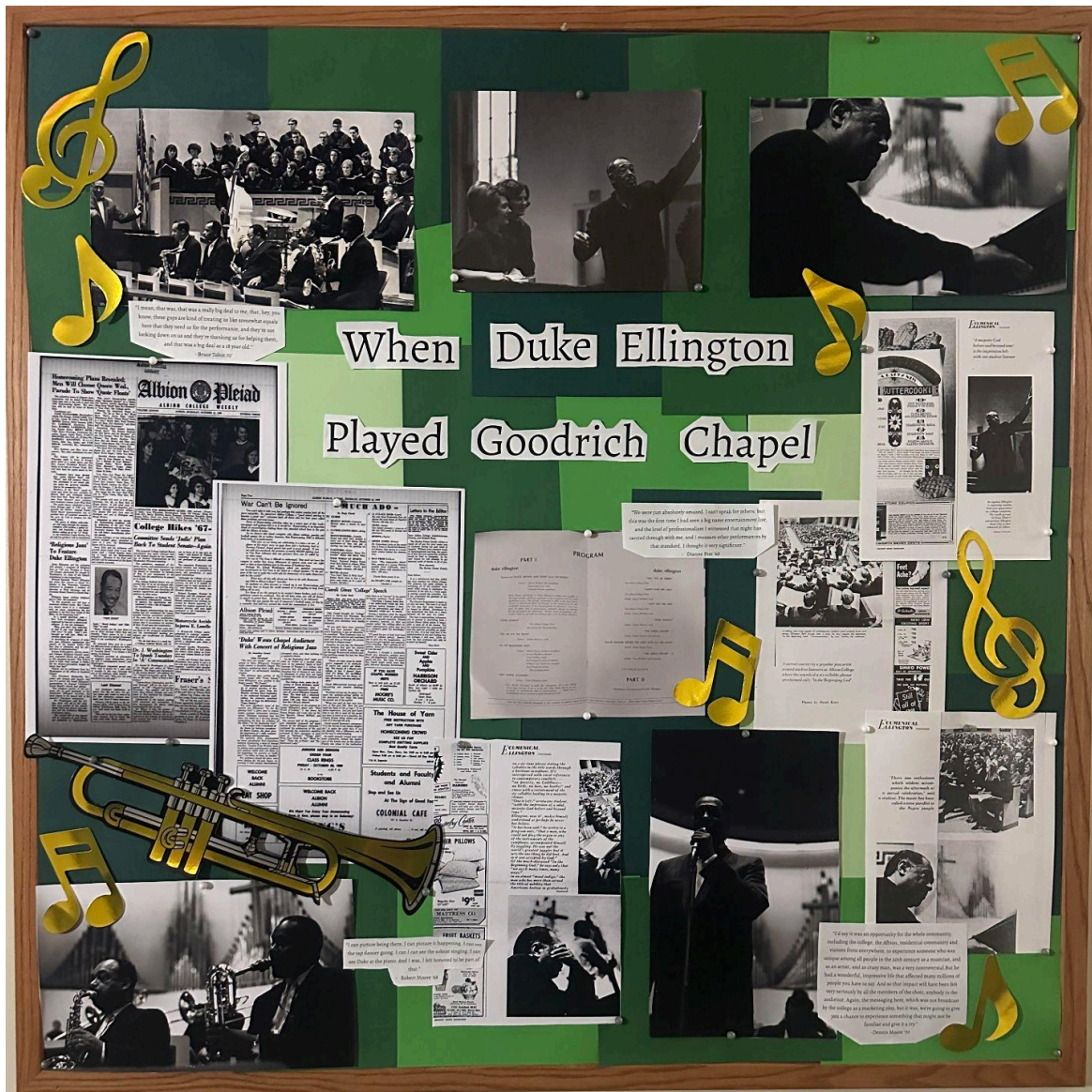
my research on the repertoire he performed in Albion. This included his suit *Black, Brown, and Beige*, and *The Sacred Concert* series. I listened to over 20 hours of Duke Ellington's works, studying the development, messages, themes, and soloists in every piece in the repertoire. I then compiled this information into repertoire sheets for each concert with this research included for every work. I then conducted contemporary press research where I found reports and news articles from the event from the Albion College Pleiad, the Io Triumphe! Alumni Magazine, and the library archives. Finally, I interviewed the alumni from the choir that performed with Ellington in the event to gain insight on their experiences, and the impact this event had on their lives. I reached out to the Alumni through Albion College Alumni Relations and used Google Meet to set up the interviews, I then used Otter Ai to transcribe and CapCut Video Editor to edit the audio and video. The Alumni were very excited to get involved with this research and share their memories of this event.

With this research completed I was able to compile the full story of Duke Ellington's visit to Albion College. Using ArcGIS story maps, I made a digital archive that covers Duke Ellington's life, major works, and the events in Albion. This archive will be available this fall. I am currently working with editor Mark Lowery to write an excerpt about this event for the Io Triumphe Alumni Magazine. This article will likely come out in the next release. I made a short video displaying photos, news articles, and quotes from alumni, backtracked by the song "Take the A Train" by Ellington's Orchestra. Finally, I made a display in the music department to showcase the event which can be seen in the images below.

Working through these different mediums of research has given me knowledge and experience that will be invaluable throughout my education. I am so grateful to have had this

opportunity to meet these Alumni and make these connections in the community. I plan to present my research at the Elkin R. Isaac Research Symposium on Albion College's campus in April of 2023. My participation in FURSCA has been such a rewarding experience and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of The Taffs Endowment. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Display in the Music Department



When Duke Ellington Played Goodrich Chapel Quotes Video

Youtube link: [https://youtu.be/ Kz46haS7kI](https://youtu.be/Kz46haS7kI)