

It Don't Mean a Thing (if it Ain't Got that Swing)

CD VOL 2 TRACK 5

SEE SING TEACHERS' HANDBOOK

Duke Ellington was one of the most influential jazz pianists and band leaders of the jazz era. He wrote over 900 compositions, including this one which he composed in 1932. The song is a jazz standard, known by many jazz performers the world over.

Swing is a particular kind of jazz that was extremely popular in the 1930s. Ellington is usually credited for naming the style of music known as swing and he defines it in this song, which will be famous for a long time. Ellington loved making music!



WORDS AND MUSIC BY ELLINGTON AND MILLS

Swing

Em C7 B7
It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing.

Em A7 D9
Doo wah doo wah doo wah doo wah doo wah

G B7 Em
doo wah doo wah doo wah. It don't mean a

C7 B7 Em A7
thing all you got to do is sing. — Doo wah doo wah

D9 G
doo wah doo wah doo wah doo wah doo wah. It

G7 C
makes no diff'-rence if it's sweet or hot. Just

Em A D B7
give that rhy-thm ev'-ry-thing you've got. Oh, it

Em C7 B7 Em
don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing. —

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A7 D9 G
Doo wah doo wah doo wah doo wah doo wah doo wah doo

To Coda ⊕ Em C B7
wah. What good is mel-o - dy? —

Em C7/D B7 Em
What good is mu - sic, if it ain't poss -

C7/D B7 Em C7 B7 Em
ess-ing some - thing sweet? It ain't the

C7 B7 Em C7/D B7
me-lo - dy. — It ain't the mu - sic.

Em C7/B B7 F#7 B7 D.C. al Coda ⊕
There's some-thing else that makes the tune com-plete. It

⊕ CODA A7 *Softly* D9
Do wah doo wah doo wah doo wah doo wah

G
do wah doo wah doo wah.

