043 - It Don't Mean A Thing

Verse 1

What good is mel-o-dy,
what good is mu-sic
if it ain't pos-ses-in' some-thing sweet?
It ain't the mel-o-dy,
it ain't the mu-sic,
there's some-thing else that makes the tune
com-plete -

Chorus

It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah.

It don't mean a thing, all you got to do is sing, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah.

Bridge

Makes no diff-'rence if it's sweet or hot, just give that rhythm ev-'ry-thing you got.
Oh—

Chorus

It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah.

[Key Change and 16 x Bar Instrumental]

Bridge repeat

Makes no diff-'rence if it's sweet or hot, just give that rhythm ev-'ry-thing you got.

Chorus

Oh, it don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah,

[softer] doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah.

[louder] doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah. doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah.

[spoken exclamation] Y_E_A_H!

It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" is a 1931 composition by Duke Ellington, with lyrics by Irving Mills, now accepted as a jazz standard.