

## Some Trumpet Jazz

Louis Armstrong was known as the "World's Greatest Jazz Trumpeter." Armstrong reshaped jazz into his own inspiring image. He shifted jazz from group ensembles to crafty solos. He also recorded many songs that are still popular today. His song, "What A Wonderful World," is one that most people recognize. Armstrong didn't invent jazz but it would sound a lot different if he hadn't come along.



## Influence in my Life

Today we don't really think of putting jazz on to our playlists. People may think that it is an outdated style. We think of pop or rap. But the way Louis reshaped jazz, was incredible. This is why some of the songs today sound like they do. I have grown up with music in my life. My mom is a music director and since I have been born, I have been exposed to many varieties of music. My favorite genre has to be jazz though. I love the swing in it. When I was looking at which instrument to play I knew which one I wanted. I want to play the trumpet and I wish that someday I could play like Louis Armstrong. Armstrong's vocal work is also inspiring. He has shared his love of music with the people in the world today. He is my music icon and one for many other people. Keep playing those jazzy tunes!

**"Musicians don't retire; they stop when there's no more music in them"**  
-Louis Armstrong

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Louis Daniel  
Armstrong

August 4, 1901- July 6, 1971

***"If you have to ask what jazz is,  
you'll never know."***  
***-Louis Armstrong***





## Life in the Eyes of a Musician

### Hard start

As soon as Louis Armstrong was born, he was bound to be Jazzy. He was born August 4, 1901 in New Orleans, Louisiana, the birthplace of jazz.

Louis was born to Willie Armstrong and Mary Ann Armstrong. When Louis was five, his parents separated leaving him to live with his sister, mother, and grandmother. They lived in a rundown area of New Orleans known as "the Battlefield."

In 1913, Armstrong was arrested for firing a gun on New Year's Eve. He was sent the Waif's home, a sort of reform school. This is where he took up the cornet. When he was released he began performing in local groups.

Joe "King" Oliver, one of the finest trumpet players, became Armstrong's mentor. When Oliver moved to Chicago, Armstrong took his place in the Kid Ory's Band.

He moved to Chicago and started playing in a hot jazz band at the time called the Creole Jazz Band. He also became the first African American to host a national radio Broadcast.

## Life with Jazz

### The Later Years

In June 1951, Armstrong reached Top Ten on the LP charts with his song, Stachmo. In 1956 and 1957, he played at a concert for Ghana's independence and spoke out against discrimination in schools. In 1968, Armstrong recorded his last big hit, "What a Wonderful World." A year later he appeared in the movie Hello Dolly with Barbra Streisand. The song Hello Dolly, which he performed, won him a Grammy for his vocal performance.

Louis Armstrong died on July 6, 1971 in his sleep at his home in Corona, Queens, New York, NY. He was 69-years-old. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as an early influence in 1990.



### Interesting Facts

- Louis was married four times: 1918-Daisy Parker, 1922-Lilian Hardin, 1938- Alpha Smith, and 1942-Lucille Wilson.
- He adopted his cousin's son, Clarence when she died in childbirth
- Armstrong made recordings with Sidney Bechet, Ma Rainey, and Bessie Smith.
- He first met Bing Cosby at the New Cotton Club in LA in 1930.
- In 1959, Armstrong was hospitalized due to a heart attack.
- The city of New Orleans renamed its airport the Louis Armstrong International Airport in 2001.

*"There is two kinds of music, the good, and the bad. I play the good kind."*

*-Louis Armstrong*