

jazz legend armstrong

jazz legend armstrong is a name that resonates throughout the history of music, synonymous with innovation, charisma, and unparalleled talent. This article provides an in-depth look at the life, legacy, and influence of Louis Armstrong, exploring his early beginnings, breakthrough moments, and lasting impact on jazz and popular culture. Readers will uncover Armstrong's signature style, groundbreaking recordings, and collaborations, along with his role as a cultural ambassador. We also examine the challenges he overcame and the honors he received during his prolific career. Whether you are a longtime jazz enthusiast or newly curious about this iconic figure, this comprehensive guide will illuminate why Armstrong's contributions remain vital and celebrated around the world. Dive into the remarkable journey of jazz legend Armstrong and discover how his artistry shaped the music landscape for generations.

- Early Life and Musical Beginnings
- Rise to Stardom and Signature Style
- Influential Recordings and Collaborations
- Armstrong's Impact on Jazz and Culture
- Challenges, Legacy, and Recognition

Early Life and Musical Beginnings

Childhood in New Orleans

Louis Armstrong was born on August 4, 1901, in New Orleans, Louisiana, a city renowned for its vibrant musical heritage. Raised in a poor neighborhood, Armstrong faced adversity from a young age, but the rich culture surrounding him offered an escape. His exposure to blues, ragtime, and brass bands provided fertile ground for his budding interest in music. Armstrong's early years were marked by determination, as he worked various jobs to support his family while nurturing his passion for music. The influence of the city's street parades and local musicians proved pivotal in shaping Armstrong's musical identity.

Discovering the Cornet

Armstrong's journey into music began when he was sent to the Colored Waif's Home for Boys after a minor run-in with the law. There, he learned to play the cornet under the guidance of Peter Davis. The instrument quickly became an extension of himself, and Armstrong's natural talent began to emerge. His dedication and enthusiasm for music led him to perform in local clubs and with small bands,

gradually building a reputation as an exciting young musician. This period of self-discovery and growth laid the foundation for Armstrong's legendary career.

Early Influences and Mentors

In his formative years, Armstrong was mentored by established musicians such as Joe "King" Oliver, who played a significant role in nurturing his talent. Oliver's mentorship opened doors for Armstrong, including an invitation to join his Creole Jazz Band in Chicago. Exposure to seasoned performers and innovative jazz styles helped Armstrong refine his technique and develop his unique approach to improvisation. These early experiences were instrumental in shaping Armstrong's future as a jazz legend.

Rise to Stardom and Signature Style

Joining King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band

Armstrong's move to Chicago in 1922 marked a turning point in his career. Performing with King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, Armstrong's powerful cornet solos and infectious energy captivated audiences. His ability to communicate emotion through music distinguished him from his peers. The band's recordings from this era showcase Armstrong's growing confidence and innovative style, laying the groundwork for his rise to stardom.

Breaking New Ground in New York

In 1924, Armstrong relocated to New York City, joining Fletcher Henderson's Orchestra. This move expanded Armstrong's exposure to a broader musical landscape, allowing him to collaborate with prominent jazz musicians and experiment with new sounds. Armstrong's dynamic solos and rhythmic creativity influenced the orchestra's arrangements and set new standards for jazz performance. His work in New York solidified his reputation as a trailblazer in the genre.

Developing a Distinctive Vocal and Trumpet Style

Armstrong's signature style is characterized by his virtuosic trumpet playing and expressive vocal delivery. He popularized scat singing, an improvisational vocal technique, and infused his performances with warmth and humor. Armstrong's unique phrasing, powerful tone, and technical mastery set him apart from other musicians of his era. His innovative approach transformed jazz from ensemble-based performances to a soloist's art form, elevating the genre and inspiring countless artists.

- Distinctive trumpet solos and improvisation
- Introduction of scat singing
- Influential phrasing and timing
- Charismatic stage presence

Influential Recordings and Collaborations

Hot Five and Hot Seven Sessions

Armstrong's Hot Five and Hot Seven recordings, made between 1925 and 1928, are considered foundational works in jazz history. Featuring classics such as "West End Blues," "Potato Head Blues," and "Heebie Jeebies," these sessions highlighted Armstrong's innovative techniques and creative vision. The music showcased his ability to blend melody and improvisation, establishing new standards for jazz musicianship. These recordings remain influential and are studied by jazz enthusiasts and scholars worldwide.

Collaborations with Jazz Greats

Throughout his career, Armstrong collaborated with leading jazz musicians and vocalists, including Ella Fitzgerald, Earl Hines, and Duke Ellington. His partnerships resulted in memorable performances and enduring recordings, such as the duets with Fitzgerald on "Cheek to Cheek" and "Dream a Little Dream of Me." These collaborations expanded Armstrong's artistic range and helped popularize jazz among wider audiences. Armstrong's willingness to explore new musical territories and work with diverse artists contributed to his status as a jazz legend.

Iconic Songs and Popular Hits

Armstrong's repertoire includes some of the most recognizable songs in American music, such as "What a Wonderful World," "When the Saints Go Marching In," and "Hello, Dolly!" His recordings achieved commercial success and critical acclaim, cementing Armstrong's place in the pantheon of great musicians. These songs continue to resonate with listeners, capturing the spirit and optimism that defined Armstrong's artistry.

Armstrong's Impact on Jazz and Culture

Transforming Jazz Performance

Armstrong's influence on jazz is profound, as he redefined the possibilities of improvisation and solo performance. His technical mastery and emotional expression elevated jazz from its roots in dance halls to a respected art form. Armstrong inspired generations of musicians to push boundaries and explore new creative directions. His legacy is evident in the evolution of jazz styles, from swing to bebop and beyond.

Cultural Ambassador and Global Influence

Beyond his musical achievements, Armstrong served as a cultural ambassador for jazz, touring extensively across the United States and internationally. His performances introduced jazz to audiences in Europe, Africa, and Asia, fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for American music. Armstrong's charm, wit, and generosity endeared him to fans worldwide, making him a symbol of unity and hope during turbulent times.

Influence on Popular Music and Media

Armstrong's impact extended beyond jazz, influencing the development of popular music, film, and television. He appeared in numerous movies and television specials, bringing jazz to mainstream audiences. Armstrong's ability to adapt his style to changing musical trends ensured his continued relevance throughout his career. His contributions to American culture are celebrated in museums, festivals, and educational programs dedicated to preserving his legacy.

Challenges, Legacy, and Recognition

Overcoming Obstacles and Breaking Barriers

Armstrong's journey was marked by significant challenges, including racial discrimination and economic hardship. Despite these obstacles, he persevered and became a role model for aspiring musicians. Armstrong's dignified approach to adversity and advocacy for equality earned him respect within and beyond the music industry. His resilience and optimism inspired countless individuals to pursue their dreams.

Honors and Awards

Throughout his career, Armstrong received numerous accolades, including Grammy Awards, induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and recognition from the Kennedy Center. His contributions to music and culture were celebrated by fans, peers, and critics alike. Armstrong's enduring popularity is reflected in the continued appreciation of his recordings and the preservation of his legacy in

institutions and media.

Enduring Influence and Legacy

The legacy of jazz legend Armstrong endures through his recordings, influence on musicians, and impact on the cultural landscape. His artistry continues to inspire new generations, and his message of hope and unity remains relevant today. Armstrong's life and work serve as a testament to the power of music to transcend boundaries and bring people together.

1. Armstrong's early life shaped his musical identity
2. He pioneered innovative trumpet and vocal techniques
3. His recordings set new standards for jazz performance
4. Armstrong's influence reached global audiences
5. He overcame adversity and earned widespread recognition

Q: What made jazz legend Armstrong's trumpet style unique?

A: Armstrong's trumpet style was distinguished by his powerful tone, inventive improvisation, and expressive phrasing, which set new standards in jazz performance and influenced generations of musicians.

Q: How did Armstrong contribute to the development of scat singing?

A: Armstrong popularized scat singing through innovative vocal improvisation, notably in recordings like "Heebie Jeebies," helping establish it as a vital technique in jazz vocal performance.

Q: What are some of Armstrong's most influential recordings?

A: Notable recordings include "West End Blues," "What a Wonderful World," "Hello, Dolly!," and the Hot Five and Hot Seven sessions, all of which are considered jazz milestones.

Q: How did Armstrong impact jazz and popular culture?

A: Armstrong transformed jazz into a soloist's art form, broadened its appeal globally, and influenced popular music, film, and television with his charismatic presence and innovative artistry.

Q: Who were some of Armstrong's key collaborators?

A: Armstrong collaborated with jazz luminaries such as Ella Fitzgerald, Earl Hines, and Duke Ellington, producing memorable recordings and performances that expanded his artistic reach.

Q: What challenges did Armstrong face during his career?

A: Armstrong faced racial discrimination, economic hardship, and industry barriers, yet persevered with resilience and optimism, becoming a role model and advocate for equality.

Q: Why is Armstrong considered a jazz legend?

A: Armstrong's pioneering techniques, influential recordings, global impact, and enduring legacy have solidified his status as a jazz legend and cultural icon.

Q: What honors and awards did Armstrong receive?

A: Armstrong was awarded multiple Grammys, inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and honored by the Kennedy Center, among other prestigious recognitions.

Q: How did Armstrong serve as a cultural ambassador?

A: By touring extensively and performing internationally, Armstrong introduced jazz to diverse audiences, promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for American music.

Q: What is Armstrong's legacy in the music world today?

A: Armstrong's legacy lives on through his recordings, influence on musicians, and continued relevance in jazz education and cultural celebrations worldwide.

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Jazz Legend Armstrong: A Legacy Beyond the Trumpet

The name Louis Armstrong conjures images of a beaming smile, a gravelly voice, and the

unmistakable sound of a trumpet weaving magic. But beyond the iconic imagery lies a life story as rich and complex as the music he created. This in-depth exploration dives into the life and legacy of "Satchmo," exploring his impact on jazz, his personal struggles, and his enduring influence on music and culture. We'll uncover the man behind the legend, illuminating the journey of a musical giant who transcended his era and continues to inspire generations.

The Early Years: From New Orleans Streets to Global Fame

Born in the impoverished streets of New Orleans in 1901, Louis Armstrong's early life was far from glamorous. He learned to play the cornet as a young boy, initially through the disciplined structure of the Colored Waifs' Home for Boys. This unlikely starting point proved to be the crucible that forged his musical genius. His raw talent and innate musicality quickly shone through, leading him to immerse himself in the vibrant jazz scene of Storyville, New Orleans' red-light district, a melting pot of musical styles and influences. This formative period shaped his distinctive improvisational style and laid the foundation for his future triumphs.

Storyville: The Birthplace of a Legend

Storyville wasn't just a neighborhood; it was a musical laboratory. Armstrong soaked up the sounds of ragtime, blues, and early jazz, absorbing the influences that would later define his signature sound. He honed his skills alongside other legendary figures, learning from and collaborating with musicians who were themselves shaping the future of jazz. This period of intense musical exchange cemented his understanding of improvisation and rhythmic phrasing, elements that would become hallmarks of his playing.

Beyond New Orleans: The King Oliver Years and Beyond

His move to Chicago marked a significant leap in his career. Joining King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band provided Armstrong with exposure to a wider audience and allowed him to refine his skills further. This collaboration significantly influenced his improvisational style, pushing him towards a more individualistic expression within the collective. He ultimately moved on, establishing his own fame and forging an incredibly impactful career path as a soloist. This demonstrated his unwavering ambition and the inherent drive he possessed.

Satchmo's Sound: Innovation and Influence

Armstrong's influence on jazz is immeasurable. He revolutionized the trumpet, incorporating a previously unheard-of level of expressive phrasing and technical virtuosity. His improvisational skills were unparalleled, seamlessly blending melody and rhythm with breathtaking improvisation. He could evoke a spectrum of emotions, from joyous exuberance to poignant melancholy, all through his trumpet.

The "Scat" Singer: A Vocal Revolution

Beyond his trumpet prowess, Armstrong's vocal contributions left an equally indelible mark. His pioneering use of "scat singing"—improvising with nonsense syllables—opened new avenues for vocal expression in jazz. This innovative approach added a playful and virtuosic element to his performances, further solidifying his position as a musical innovator.

Beyond the Trumpet: A Cultural Icon

Armstrong wasn't just a musician; he was a cultural icon. His infectious enthusiasm and warm personality transcended musical boundaries, making him a beloved figure worldwide. His charisma shone through in his performances, connecting with audiences on a deeply emotional level. He broke racial barriers in a time of intense segregation, proving that talent knows no boundaries.

The Later Years: A Lasting Legacy

Despite facing health challenges and personal struggles in his later years, Armstrong continued to perform and inspire, leaving an undeniable legacy. He remained an active force in the world of music until his death in 1971. His final performances showcased his enduring talent and ability to captivate audiences. His story continued to resonate long after his passing, inspiring countless artists and continuing to impact the world of music and beyond.

Conclusion

Louis Armstrong's impact extends far beyond the technical mastery of his trumpet playing or his innovative vocal style. He was a cultural ambassador, a trailblazer, and a testament to the power of music to transcend boundaries and unite people. His legacy lives on through his music, his influence on subsequent generations of musicians, and the enduring memory of a life lived with passion, dedication, and an infectious joy that resonates to this day. He remains, without question, a true jazz legend.

FAQs

1. What is "scat singing," and how did Armstrong pioneer it? Scat singing involves improvising with nonsense syllables instead of lyrics. Armstrong's inventive use of scat propelled it into the mainstream, influencing countless singers and musicians.
2. What other instruments did Louis Armstrong play besides the trumpet? While primarily known for the trumpet, Armstrong also played the cornet and occasionally played other instruments during his early years.
3. How did Louis Armstrong overcome racial barriers in his career? Armstrong's talent and charisma allowed him to break through racial barriers, gaining international fame despite the segregation prevalent during his time. His achievements served as an inspiration for future generations of Black artists.
4. What are some of Louis Armstrong's most famous recordings? Some of his most iconic recordings include "What a Wonderful World," "Hello, Dolly!", "West End Blues," and "La Vie en Rose."
5. Where can I learn more about Louis Armstrong's life and music? You can find extensive information about Louis Armstrong through biographies, documentaries, and online resources dedicated to his life and musical career. Many museums and archives also hold significant collections of his work.

jazz legend armstrong: Louis Armstrong Terry Lee Collins, 2013 Describes the life of Louis Armstrong, focusing on his rise as a pop-culture icon--Provided by publisher.

jazz legend armstrong: *Louis Armstrong* Elizabeth Raum, 2007 Provides an introduction to the life and biography of the popular African American jazz musician, Louis Armstrong.

jazz legend armstrong: Louis Armstrong Terry Collins, 2012-07 Louis Armstrong, also known as Satchmo and Pops, became an American jazz legend in the 1920s. His voice and skill with instruments helped him become a popular musician in a time where America was racially divided. Watch as this skilled musician learns to play, buys his first instrument, and becomes one of the best music makers of the era.

jazz legend armstrong: *Heart Full of Rhythm* Ricky Riccardi, 2020-08-05 Nearly 50 years after his death, Louis Armstrong remains one of the 20th century's most iconic figures. Popular fans still appreciate his later hits such as Hello, Dolly! and What a Wonderful World, while in the jazz community, he remains venerated for his groundbreaking innovations in the 1920s. The achievements of Armstrong's middle years, however, possess some of the trumpeter's most scintillating and career-defining stories. But the story of this crucial time has never been told in depth — until now. Between 1929 and 1947, Armstrong transformed himself from a little-known trumpeter in Chicago to an internationally renowned pop star, setting in motion the innovations of the Swing Era and Bebop. He had a similar effect on the art of American pop singing, waxing some of his most identifiable hits such as Jeepers Creepers and When You're Smiling. However as author Ricky Riccardi shows, this transformative era wasn't without its problems, from racist performance reviews and being held up at gunpoint by gangsters to struggling with an overworked embouchure and getting arrested for marijuana possession. Utilizing a prodigious amount of new research, Riccardi traces Armstrong's mid-career fall from grace and dramatic resurgence. Featuring never-before-published photographs and stories culled from Armstrong's personal archives, *Heart Full of Rhythm* tells the story of how the man called Pops became the first King of Pop.

jazz legend armstrong: Just for a Thrill James Dickerson, 2002 Lillian Lil Hardin was a pioneer for women in jazz. After studying at Fisk University, the Chicago College of Music, and the New York College of Music, Lil joined Sugar Johnny's Creole Orchestra and then moved on to Freddie Keppard's Original Creole Orchestra. In the 1920's Lil began playing in King Oliver's world-famous Creole Jazz Band, becoming the first female jazz musician of renown. She was well-established in Chicago as a pianist, composer, arranger, and bandleader before she met and married Louis Armstrong in 1924. She was the only member of Armstrong's group that could read music. Based on extensive research, Dickerson's stunning biography is the first to examine this musical iconoclast's life and career.

jazz legend armstrong: Meet the Great Jazz Legends: Short Sessions on the Lives, Times & Music of the Great Jazz Legends (Deluxe Classroom Kit), Book, CD & Reproducible A , 2009-12 Introduce a new generation of music enthusiasts to 17 legendary jazz artists who have enriched the world with their incredible talents. Dr. McCurdy's illuminating stories about the lives, times, and music of these great jazz musicians span the entire 20th century, from early New Orleans Jazz through the Golden Age of Swing plus the avant-garde and jazz fusion eras. Includes units on Louis Armstrong, James P. Johnson, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonius Monk, Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck, Clifford Brown, John Coltrane, Bill Evans, Charles Mingus, and Herbie Hancock. Now students can listen to examples of each legend's recordings to fully understand the beauty of jazz music! The enhanced CD contains listening tracks as well as a fully reproducible PDF of the entire book. Recommended for grades four and up.

jazz legend armstrong: Bix Jean Pierre Lion, 2005-01-01 Bix Beiderbecke is a figure of legend: the white cornetist's short life (1903-1931) fit the myth of the tragic artist, surrounded by the nostalgia of an era (Prohibition), and rooted in the dark history of jazz. Considered a genius by his fans and fellow musicians, Bix was a master cornet player, pianist, and composer, and one of the most inspiring jazz musicians of his age. French jazz scholar Jean Pierre Lion traveled the trajectory of Bix's life, from birth to death, to boarding school, on tour, and beyond, to uncover the truth behind the legend. He creates historical ambience with descriptions of 1920s Chicago - ruled by Al Capone and peopled with fast cars, flappers, and hot jazz musicians - and Bix's personality is revealed through excerpts from the few letters he wrote in his lifetime and the memories of friends and witnesses of the jazz age. When he died, Bix left behind a tremendous list of recordings (included here in a definitive discography) and several original compositions. This biography culls the entirety of Bix scholarship into one volume, painting a complete picture of the man, his music, and his times.--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

jazz legend armstrong: Satchmo at the Waldorf Terry Teachout, 2015-01-01 THE STORY: SATCHMO AT THE WALDORF is a one-man, three-character play in which the same actor portrays Louis Armstrong, the greatest of all jazz trumpeters; Joe Glaser, his white manager; and Miles Davis, who admired Armstrong's playing but disliked his onstage manner. It takes place in 1971 in a dressing room backstage at the Empire Room of New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where Armstrong performed in public for the last time four months before his death. Reminiscing into a tape recorder about his life and work, Armstrong seeks to come to terms with his longstanding relationship with Glaser, whom he once loved like a father but now believes to have betrayed him. In alternating scenes, Glaser defends his controversial decision to promote Armstrong's career (with the help of the Chicago mob) by encouraging him to simplify his musical style, while Davis attacks Armstrong for pandering to white audiences.

jazz legend armstrong: Swing That Music Louis Armstrong, 1993-08-22 The first autobiography of a jazz musician, Louis Armstrong's *Swing That Music* is a milestone in jazz literature. Armstrong wrote most of the biographical material, which is of a different nature and scope than that of his other, later autobiography, *Satchmo: My Life in New Orleans* (also published by Da Capo/Perseus Books Group). *Satchmo* covers in intimate detail Armstrong's life until his 1922

move to Chicago; but *Swing That Music* also covers his days on Chicago's South Side with "King" Oliver, his courtship and marriage to Lil Hardin, his 1929 move to New York, the formation of his own band, his European tours, and his international success. One of the most earnest justifications ever written for the new style of music then called "swing" but more broadly referred to as "Jazz," *Swing That Music* is a biography, a history, and an entertainment that really "swings."

jazz legend armstrong: What a Wonderful World Ricky Riccardi, 2011-06-21 In this richly detailed and prodigiously researched book, jazz scholar and musician Ricky Riccardi reveals for the first time the genius and remarkable achievements of the last 25 years of Louis Armstrong's life, providing along the way a comprehensive study of one of the best-known and most accomplished jazz stars of our time. Much has been written about Armstrong, but the majority of it focuses on the early and middle stages of his career. During the last third of his career, Armstrong was often dismissed as a buffoonish if popular entertainer. Riccardi shows us instead the inventiveness and depth of his music during this time. These are the years of his highest-charting hits, including "Mack the Knife" and "Hello, Dolly; the famed collaborations with Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington; and his legendary recordings with the All Stars. An eminently readable and insightful book, *What a Wonderful World* completes and enlarges our understanding of one of America's greatest and most beloved musical icons.

jazz legend armstrong: The Louis Armstrong Companion Joshua Berrett, 1999 Drawing on the rich resources of the Louis Armstrong Archives, jazz historian Joshua Berrett has compiled a wonderful tribute to the multitalented trumpeter, vocalist, and Ambassador of Jazz. 20 photos.

jazz legend armstrong: Born to Swing Mara Rockliff, 2018-01-02 Here is the story of Hot Miss Lil Hardin Armstrong, legendary jazz pianist, composer, and bandleader--and a female pioneer on the music stage. Ever since she was a young girl, Lil Hardin played music with a beat. She jammed at home, at church, and even at her first job in a music store. At a time when women's only place in jazz was at the microphone, Lil earned a spot playing piano in Chicago's hottest band. She went on to achieve fame as a bandleader and composer, and swung with many of the greatest early jazz musicians, including her husband, Louis Armstrong. Award-winning author Mara Rockliff and acclaimed illustrator Michele Wood brilliantly capture the rhythms and passions of this jazz pioneer and legend whose music and story deserve to be heard. This biography contains strong back matter which includes archival images, further information about Lil, a list of some of her songs and recordings, a timeline, an author's note, and a bibliography.

jazz legend armstrong: Louis Armstrong, Master of Modernism Thomas David Brothers, 2014-02-03 The definitive account of Louis Armstrong—his life and legacy—during the most creative period of his career. Nearly 100 years after bursting onto Chicago's music scene under the tutelage of Joe King Oliver, Louis Armstrong is recognized as one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century. A trumpet virtuoso, seductive crooner, and consummate entertainer, Armstrong laid the foundation for the future of jazz with his stylistic innovations, but his story would be incomplete without examining how he struggled in a society seething with brutally racist ideologies, laws, and practices. Thomas Brothers picks up where he left off with the acclaimed *Louis Armstrong's New Orleans*, following the story of the great jazz musician into his most creatively fertile years in the 1920s and early 1930s, when Armstrong created not one but two modern musical styles. Brothers wields his own tremendous skill in making the connections between history and music accessible to everyone as Armstrong shucks and jives across the page. Through Brothers's expert ears and eyes we meet an Armstrong whose quickness and sureness, so evident in his performances, served him well in his encounters with racism while his music soared across the airwaves into homes all over America. *Louis Armstrong, Master of Modernism* blends cultural history, musical scholarship, and personal accounts from Armstrong's contemporaries to reveal his enduring contributions to jazz and popular music at a time when he and his bandmates couldn't count on food or even a friendly face on their travels across the country. Thomas Brothers combines an intimate knowledge of Armstrong's life with the boldness to examine his place in such a racially charged landscape. In vivid prose and with vibrant photographs, Brothers illuminates the life and

work of the man many consider to be the greatest American musician of the twentieth century.

jazz legend armstrong: Finding Bix Brendan Wolfe, 2017-05-15 Bix Beiderbecke was one of the first great legends of jazz. Among the most innovative cornet soloists of the 1920s and the first important white player, he invented the jazz ballad and pointed the way to “cool” jazz. But his recording career lasted just six years; he drank himself to death in 1931—at the age of twenty-eight. It was this meteoric rise and fall, combined with the searing originality of his playing and the mystery of his character—who was Bix? not even his friends or family seemed to know—that inspired subsequent generations to imitate him, worship him, and write about him. It also provoked Brendan Wolfe’s *Finding Bix* a personal and often surprising attempt to connect music, history, and legend. A native of Beiderbecke’s hometown of Davenport, Iowa, Wolfe grew up seeing Bix’s iconic portrait on everything from posters to parking garages. He never heard his music, though, until cast to play a bit part in an Italian biopic filmed in Davenport. Then, after writing a newspaper review of a book about Beiderbecke, Wolfe unexpectedly received a letter from the late musician’s nephew scolding him for getting a number of facts wrong. This is where *Finding Bix* begins: in Wolfe’s good-faith attempt to get the facts right. What follows, though, is anything but straightforward, as Wolfe discovers Bix Beiderbecke to be at the heart of furious and ever-timely disputes over addiction, race and the origins of jazz, sex, and the influence of commerce on art. He also uncovers proof that the only newspaper interview Bix gave in his lifetime was a fraud, almost entirely plagiarized from several different sources. In fact, Wolfe comes to realize that the closer he seems to get to Bix, the more the legend retreats.

jazz legend armstrong: Little Satchmo Sharon Louise Preston-Folta, Denene Millner, 2012-12-14 To the world, Louis Armstrong is iconic—a symbol of musical genius, unparalleled success and unassailable character. To Sharon Preston Folta, he was, simply, Dad. Despite the enduring celebration and study of Armstrong’s life and career, no one, save for close family and friends, knows Sharon exists. Even in the trumpeter’s death she remains Armstrong’s secret—the product of a two-decade-long affair between the long-married musician, and the vaudeville dancer Lucille Preston. And for more than half a century, she has lived her life hiding in the shadows of her father’s fame. Until now. Now, Sharon shares her story—extraordinary because of who her father was, but universal in its reach toward generations who have grown up in fatherless households, searching for a keen understanding of their own blood, their own DNA, their own Legacy. *Little Satchmo* is an extraordinary tale of identity, loss, and one daughter’s ultimate search for truth—and her father’s love.

jazz legend armstrong: Louis Armstrong and Paul Whiteman Joshua Berrett, 2008-10-01 In *Louis Armstrong and Paul Whiteman* the jazz scholar Joshua Berrett offers a provocative revision of the history of early jazz by focusing on two of its most notable practitioners—Whiteman, legendary in his day, and Armstrong, a legend ever since. Paul Whiteman’s fame was unmatched throughout the twenties. Bix Beiderbecke, Bing Crosby, and Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey honed their craft on his bandstand. Celebrated as the “King of Jazz” in 1930 in a Universal Studios feature film, Whiteman’s imperium has declined considerably since. The legend of Louis Armstrong, in contrast, grows ever more lustrous: for decades it has been Armstrong, not Whiteman, who has worn the king’s crown. This dual biography explores these diverging legacies in the context of race, commerce, and the history of early jazz. Early jazz, Berrett argues, was not a story of black innovators and white usurpers. In this book, a much richer, more complicated story emerges—a story of cross-influences, sidemen, sundry movers and shakers who were all part of a collective experience that transcended the category of race. In the world of early jazz, Berrett contends, kingdoms had no borders.

jazz legend armstrong: Play, Louis, Play! Muriel Harris Weinstein, 2010-12-07 Presents the early life of the famous African American cornet player, describing his humble beginnings on the streets of New Orleans to his emergence as a legend among the biggest jazz clubs of the city.

jazz legend armstrong: Louis Armstrong Joel Newsome, 2017-12-15 The world of jazz was just developing when Louis Armstrong was born in 1901. During his life, Armstrong became a defining figure in the burgeoning jazz movement, developing his own style in both bands and in a

solo career. His unique approach inspired other jazz contemporaries, including Bing Crosby and Billie Holiday. This is the story of his life, death, and legacy, and his lasting influence on jazz today.

jazz legend armstrong: Sonny's Bridge Barry Wittenstein, 2019-05-21 This groovy, bebopping picture book biography chronicles the legendary jazz saxophonist Sonny Rollins's search for inspiration on the Williamsburg Bridge after quitting the jazz scene in 1959. Rollins is one of the most prolific sax players in the history of jazz, but, in 1959, at the height of his career, he vanished from the jazz scene. His return to music was an interesting journey--with a long detour on the Williamsburg Bridge. Too loud to practice in his apartment, Rollins played on the New York City landmark for two years among the cacophony of traffic and the stares of bystanders, leading to the release of his album, *The Bridge*. Written in rhythmic prose with a bebop edge, this picture-book biography of Sonny Rollins's journey to get his groove back will delight young and old fans alike.

jazz legend armstrong: Pops Terry Teachout, 2009 Certain to be the definitive word on Louis Armstrong, Pops paints a gripping portrait of the man, his world, and his music. Drawing on a cache of new sources, the author has crafted a sweeping new narrative biography of this towering figure.

jazz legend armstrong: If I Only Had a Horn Roxane Orgill, 1997 Orgill's vivid words and Jenkins's dramatic pictures combine to tell the story of a boy who grew up to be a giant of jazz--the legendary and beloved Louis Armstrong.

jazz legend armstrong: Louis Armstrong Patricia C. McKissack, Fredrick McKissack, 2001 Simple text and illustrations describe the life and accomplishments of the jazz trumpet player who was known as Satchmo.

jazz legend armstrong: Louis Armstrong's New Orleans Thomas Brothers, 2007-03-27 Drawing on first-person accounts, this book tells the rags-to-riches tale of Louis Armstrong's early life and the social and musical forces in New Orleans that shaped him, their unique relationship, and their impact on American culture. Illustrations.

jazz legend armstrong: Monk's Music Gabriel Solis, 2008 Gabriel Solis's study of Thelonious Monk's legacy energizes an important development in jazz studies. Respectful of Monk and his musical heirs, Solis nevertheless offers insights on Monk myth-building by opposing jazz camps in which both moldy figs and avant-gardists claim him as their own. Moving beyond exploding these turf battles, Solis comes to deep realizations about jazz as a practice. This will become an often-cited work, even a transformative one.—Steven F. Pond, author of *Head Hunters: The Making of Jazz's First Platinum Album* (winner of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music's Woody Guthrie Prize)

jazz legend armstrong: The Life and Times of Duke Ellington John Bankston, 2004-09 More than any other musician in the early twentieth century, Duke Ellington brought jazz into nightclubs and later into the living rooms of America. The music he played sprang in part from the blues and gospel rhythms of the plantation slaves living in the mid-nineteenth century, infused with the sounds of ragtime from the turn of the century. Jazz has been called the first musical form created in the United States. It was a type of sharp improvisation for which band members played anything they wanted along a chosen key or set of chords, so every night the music was different. Duke led with his piano playing, but he allowed various other members of his band to shine, too. Embracing new technologies such as radio receivers and record players, Duke Ellington was an early pop star.

jazz legend armstrong: Satchmo Gary Giddins, 2009-03-05 Gary Giddins has been called the best jazz writer in America today (*Esquire*). Louis Armstrong has been called the most influential jazz musician of the century. Together this auspicious pairing has resulted in *Satchmo*, one of the most vivid and fascinating portraits ever drawn of perhaps the greatest figure in the history of American music. Available now at a new price, this text-only edition is the authoritative introduction to Armstrong's life and art for the curious newcomer, and offers fresh insight even for the serious student of Pops.

jazz legend armstrong: Louis Armstrong, in His Own Words Louis Armstrong, 2001 Louis Armstrong has been the subject of countless biographies and music histories. Yet scant attention has been paid to the remarkable array of writings he left behind. *Louis Armstrong: In His Own Words*

introduces readers to a little-known facet of this master trumpeter, bandleader, and entertainer. Based on extensive research through the Armstrong archives, this important volume includes some of his earliest letters, personal correspondence, autobiographical writings, magazine articles, and essays.

jazz legend armstrong: Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill Lanie Robertson, 1989 Deals with one of the last appearances of Billie Holiday. -- p.7 | May include musicians.

jazz legend armstrong: Satchmo Michael Meckna, 2004-05-30 When pressed to name the most influential musician of the 20th century, many music historians will name Louis Satchmo Armstrong. Born in New Orleans in 1901 and recording into the 1970s, Armstrong is known as the father of jazz, the one figure most credited with moving the Western world from the age of classical music and Tin Pan Alley pop standards into an exciting new era of swing and hot jazz. Michael Meckna's book is the authoritative reference on Armstrong. Alphabetically arranged entries give detailed information on the many aspects of Armstrong's life and music. An appendix of CD releases includes entries that detail the record company, date of issue, song list, and performer list. Other appendices include a chronology, a list of movies, and a resource guide to Satchmo on the Web; a bibliography offers yet another useful tool for fans and students of Armstrong's life and music. A selection of historic black-and-white photos completes the volume.

jazz legend armstrong: Louis Armstrong Tamra Orr, 2012-09-30 When a very young Louis Armstrong felt the policeman grab his arm and haul him off to jail, he had no idea that his life was about to change. What started out as punishment turned into the best thing that could have happened to the young African American. He discovered that he had a passion for music, and a real talent for the horn. The combination led him to become one of the nation's most beloved and respected jazz musicians in history. Armstrong's music thrilled audiences throughout the world and his joy for life infected anyone who listened to his soaring horn or his gravelly voice. Louis Armstrong—Satchmo to those who knew and loved him—made jazz music what it is today. Open the cover and find out how.

jazz legend armstrong: Louisiana Rocks! Tom Aswell, 2010-09-23 An in-depth history of rock and roll's Louisiana roots. Taking the position that rock and roll started in New Orleans in 1947 when Roy Brown recorded Good Rockin' Tonight, Aswell provides an expansive history of this beloved American music form. By looking at the Louisianan influences of swamp pop, Cajun, zydeco, R&B, rockabilly, country, and blues music, the author explores the way these musical forms gave birth to rock and roll as we know it today.

jazz legend armstrong: Wail Peter Pullman, 2012

jazz legend armstrong: Ella Fitzgerald Grace Hansen, 2015-12-15 Cover -- Copyright -- Table of Contents -- Birth & Early Life -- The Apollo -- Fame! -- Death & Legacy -- Timeline -- Glossary -- Index -- Abdo Kids Code

jazz legend armstrong: Satchmo Louis Armstrong, 1986 In all my whole career the Brick House was one of the toughest joints I ever played in. It was the honky-tonk where levee workers would congregate every Saturday night and trade with the gals who'd stroll up and down the floor and the bar. Those guys would drink and fight one another like circle saws. Bottles would come flying over the bandstand like crazy, and there was lots of just plain common shooting and cutting. But somehow all that jive didn't faze me at all, I was so happy to have some place to blow my horn. So says Louis Armstrong, a tough kid who just happened to be a musical genius, about one of the places where he performed and grew up. This raucous, rich tale of his early days in New Orleans concludes with his departure to Chicago at twenty-one to play with his boyhood idol King Oliver, and tells the story of a life that began, mythically, on July 4, 1900, in the city that sowed the seeds of jazz.

jazz legend armstrong: Dizzy Gillespie Mary Boone, 2012-09-30 John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie (October 21, 1917–January 6, 1993) was one of the most recognizable and popular figures in American jazz history. The youngest of nine children, Gillespie owed much of his success to an elementary school teacher who worked to harness his energy and anger by recruiting him for the

school band—and he was hooked. His dedication and talent helped him mature into one of the country's best trumpet players. In the 1940s, the trumpet virtuoso and respected improviser teamed up with musician Charlie Parker to lay the foundations for bebop. His beret, horn-rimmed glasses, bent horn, puffed-out cheeks, and sense of humor made him a fan favorite throughout his sixty-year career as a musical innovator, mentor, and cultural ambassador.

jazz legend armstrong: *Travels with Louis* Mick Carlon, 2012 The warm-hearted story of Louis Armstrong and 12-year-old Fred, who learns about jazz--and life--from the great musician himself.

jazz legend armstrong: *Duke* Terry Teachout, 2013-10-17 A major new biography of Duke Ellington from the acclaimed author of *Pops: A Life of Louis Armstrong* Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was the greatest jazz composer of the twentieth century—and an impenetrably enigmatic personality whom no one, not even his closest friends, claimed to understand. The grandson of a slave, he dropped out of high school to become one of the world's most famous musicians, a showman of incomparable suavity who was as comfortable in Carnegie Hall as in the nightclubs where he honed his style. He wrote some fifteen hundred compositions, many of which, like "Mood Indigo" and "Sophisticated Lady," remain beloved standards, and he sought inspiration in an endless string of transient lovers, concealing his inner self behind a smiling mask of flowery language and ironic charm. As the biographer of Louis Armstrong, Terry Teachout is uniquely qualified to tell the story of the public and private lives of Duke Ellington. A semi-finalist for the National Book Award, Duke peels away countless layers of Ellington's evasion and public deception to tell the unvarnished truth about the creative genius who inspired Miles Davis to say, "All the musicians should get together one certain day and get down on their knees and thank Duke."

jazz legend armstrong: *Bunny Berigan* Robert Dupuis, 1993 The accomplishments of seminal jazz trumpeter Bernard Bunny Berigan have secured his place in the annals of American musical history. In his short lifetime, Berigan performed more than 600 recordings and achieved national as well as international success. He served as a direct link between Louis Armstrong and those who developed from his roots - Roy Eldridge, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Clifford Brown, Wynton Marsalis and others. Berigan and his soaring trumpet catapulted the Benny Goodman band, along with the rest of the country, into the Swing Era and assured Goodman's coronation as the King of Swing. Berigan's uninhibited jazz style inspired and dominated every group with which he played, including the bands of Hal Kemp, Paul Whiteman and Tommy Dorsey. His great technical skills and instant reading ability made him a coveted studio player for such vocalists as Billie Holiday, Bing Crosby, Mildred Bailey, and Lee Wiley.

jazz legend armstrong: *Louis Armstrong* Brendan January, 2003-01-01

jazz legend armstrong: *Rhythm Planet* Tom Schnabel, 1998 Public Radio personality Tom Schnabel spotlights giants of the global genre like the late Sufi singer Nusrat Feteah Ali Kahn and this year's Grammy winner Milton Nascimento, making *Rhythm Planet* both an antidote to the latest flavor of pop and an affirmation of music's power. 125 illustrations, 25 in color.

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