

Louis Armstrong

Jazz Age II



What is the importance of Louis Armstrong's work?

Louis Armstrong was a very dominant figure during the 1920s. During this time, many other trumpeters tried to mimic his playing style and charisma. He had a big role in influencing many singers. These singers range from Billie Holiday to Bing Crosby.



Who was Louis Armstrong?

Louis Armstrong, also known as Satchmo, was born August 1, 1901 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is one of the most influential artists in jazz history. Louis Armstrong's career lasted 5 decades, from the 1920s to the 1970s. He played through many different jazz eras.



Early Life and Career



Louis Armstrong grew up in extreme poverty in New Orleans. When he was born, jazz was very young. He worked many odd jobs to earn money. He was eventually sent to the Colored Waifs Home as a juvenile delinquent in 1913. It was here he learned to play cornet. Music quickly became a passion for young Armstrong. He developed rather quickly, eventually replacing King Oliver in the Kid Ory band around 1918.

Solo Career



Armstrong eventually quit the band to seek further fame. This action was encouraged by his wife. He then played for Fletcher Henderson's band for a year in New York City. After this, he returned to Chicago to play in large orchestras. By 1929, Armstrong was a famous musician who traveled America and Europe on tours.

Movies and other works



In almost all of Armstrong's radio or screen appearances, he's portrayed as a good-humored entertainer. He was featured in films such as "Hello, Dolly!," "Mack the Knife," and "New Orleans." During the filming of "New Orleans," he played with a Dixieland band. This encouraged the formation of Louis Armstrong's All-Stars.

Legacy



Armstrong is much more than just a trumpeter, bandleader, singer, soloist, film star, and comedian - he's a legend. He's made a remarkable impact on the jazz community and will forever be an influence on future jazz performers. As the editors of the Britannica say, "With his great sensitivity, technique, and capacity to express emotion, Armstrong not only ensured the survival of jazz but led in its development into a fine art."

Sources

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Louis-Armstrong#ref344123>

