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Louis Armstrong, in His Own Words

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, band leader, and entertainer. Based on extensive research through the Armstrong archives, this important volume includes some of his earliest letters, personal correspondence with one of his first biographers in 1943-44, autobiographical writings, magazine articles, and essays. Here are Armstrong's own thoughts on his life and career--from poverty in New Orleans to playing in the famous cafes, cabarets, and saloons of Storyville, from his big break in 1922 with the King Oliver band to his storming of New York, from his breaking of color barriers in Hollywood to the infamous King of the Zulus incident in 1949, and finally, to his last days in Queens, New York. Along the way Armstrong recorded touching portraits of his times and offered candid, often controversial, opinions about racism, marijuana, bebop, and other jazz artists such as Jelly Roll Morton and Coleman Hawkins. Indeed, these writings provide a balanced portrait of his life as a musician, entertainer, civil rights activist, and cultural icon. Armstrong's idiosyncratic use of language and punctuation have been preserved to give the reader an unvarnished portrayal of this compelling artist. This volume also includes introductions to the writings, as well as an annotated index of names and places significant to Armstrong's life.

Swing That Music

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."

Heart Full of Rhythm

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."

What a Wonderful World

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.

Louis Armstrong

True or False? Louis Armstrong was often called The World's Greatest Trumpet Player. True! Louis Armstrong changed the sound of American music with his exciting, powerful trumpet-playing. He helped make jazz one of the world's most popular forms of music. And his gruff singing voice and shining personality made him one of the most popular entertainers of all time.

Louis Armstrong's New Orleans

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.

Music Is My Life

A groundbreaking study of Louis Armstrong's autobiographical practices

Louis Armstrong

"Describes the life of Louis Armstrong, focusing on his rise as a pop-culture icon"--Provided by publisher.

Creating the Jazz Solo

Throughout his life, Louis Armstrong tried to explain how singing with a barbershop quartet on the streets of New Orleans was foundational to his musicianship. Until now, there has been no in-depth inquiry into what he meant when he said, "I figure singing and playing is the same," or, "Singing was more into my blood than the trumpet." *Creating the Jazz Solo: Louis Armstrong and Barbershop Harmony* shows that Armstrong understood exactly the relationship between what he sang and what he played, and that he meant these comments to be taken literally: he was singing through his horn. To describe the relationship between what Armstrong sang and played, author Vic Hobson discusses elements of music theory with a style accessible even to readers with little or no musical background. Jazz is a music that is often performed by people with limited formal musical education. Armstrong did not analyze what he played in theoretical terms. Instead, he thought about it in terms of the voices in a barbershop quartet. Understanding how Armstrong, and other pioneer jazz musicians of his generation, learned to play jazz and how he used his background of singing in a quartet to develop the jazz solo has fundamental implications for the teaching of jazz history and performance today. This assertive book provides an approachable foundation for current musicians to unlock the magic and understand jazz the Louis Armstrong way.

Louis Armstrong Plays Standards (Songbook)

(Artist Transcriptions). The All Music Guide regards trumpet virtuoso Louis Armstrong as "the most important musician in (jazz's) history." This collection assembles note-for-note transcriptions of his trumpet playing on 16 fantastic standards: *Ain't Misbehavin' * All of Me * Body and Soul * Hello, Dolly! * Lazy River * Mack the Knife * Stardust * and more*. Includes a bio and discography.

The Louis Armstrong Collection (Songbook)

(Artist Transcriptions). The All Music Guide regards trumpet virtuoso Louis Armstrong as "the most important musician in (jazz's) history." This great songbook features note-for-note transcriptions of this legend's trumpet playing on 16 songs he's famous for: *Basin Street Blues * Cornet Chop Suey * Gut Bucket Blues * Hotter Than Hot * Shine * Tiger Rag * When the Saints Go Marching In * and more*. Includes a bio and discography.

The Original Hot Five Recordings of Louis Armstrong

Between 1925 and 1928 the Hot Five--the incomparable Louis Armstrong and four seasoned practitioners of the burgeoning jazz style--recorded fifty-five performances in Chicago for the OKeh label. Oddly enough, the quintet immortalized on vinyl with recent technology rarely performed as a unit in local nightspots. And yet, like other music now regarded as especially historic, their work in the studio summarized approaches of the past and set standards for the future. Remarkable both for popularity among the members of the public and for influence on contemporary musicians, these recordings helped make "Satchmo" a familiar household name and ultimately its bearer an adored public figure. They showcased Armstrong's genius, notably his leadership in transforming the practice of jazz as an ensemble improvisation into jazz as the art of the improvising soloist. In his study *Professor Anderson*--for the first time--provides a detailed account of the origins of this pioneering enterprise, relates individual pieces to existing copyright deposits, and contextualizes the music by offering a reliable timeline of Armstrong's professional activities during these years. All fifty-five pieces, moreover, are described in informed commentary [Publisher description].

All of Me

Louis \"Satchmo\" Armstrong was not only jazz's greatest musician and innovator but also the frontal figure in the development of contemporary popular music. Overcoming social and political obstacles, he established a long and impressive career with an enormous musical output, which is amassed and detailed in this discography-from professional commercial releases to amateur and unissued recordings.

Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong. \"Satchmo.\" To millions of fans, he was just a great entertainer. But to jazz aficionados, he was one of the most important musicians of our times--not only a key figure in the history of jazz but a formative influence on all of 20th-century popular music. Set against the backdrop of New Orleans, Chicago, and New York during the \"jazz age\"

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Louis Armstrong

Depicts the life and career of the popular jazz musician, and describes his contributions to American music.

Louis Armstrong

This biography of Louis Armstrong gives a vivid and informative description of his personality, encompasses jazz history along with his life, and traces his musical development by way of numerous easy-to-grasp analyses and insights into his music.

Louis Armstrong

Twenty of Louis Armstrong's most memorable solos transcribed by jazz trumpeter Lee Castle. At the end of each solo there are notes to the trumpet player on how to approach the preceding solos. Compositions included are: Butter and Egg Man * Come Back Sweet Papa * Gut Bucket Blues * Jazz Lips * Potato Head Blues * Struttin' with Some Barbecue * Heebie Jeebies * Two Duces. Expertly transcribed by a trumpet player for trumpet players.

Satchmo

\"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 for Young People Curriculum

Based on the massively popular Web site thisdayinmusic.com, this extraordinary day-by-day diary recounts the musical firsts and lasts, blockbuster albums and chart-topping tunes, and other significant happenings on each of the 365 days Of the year.

This Day in Music

Louis Armstrong was not only a virtuoso musician, singer, composer and actor, but also a dedicated writer who typed hundreds of letters and reminiscences, carrying a typewriter with him on his constant travels around the globe. The man never stopped creating, and constantly communicated with friends and acquaintances. His unique verbal, musical and visual content and style permeated everything he touched. Included in this extensive career biography are the major events of his life, his artistic innovations and cultural achievements, a detailed survey of his recordings and live performances, and in-depth discussions of his screen performances--not only his Hollywood feature film appearances, but his performances in short films, European concert films, and dozens of television shows broadcast from Hollywood, New York and Europe.

Louis Armstrong

(Vocal Piano). Features authentic vocal/piano transcriptions of 17 Satchmo classics in their original keys! Includes: Ain't Misbehavin' * Basin Street Blues * Cabaret * Dream a Little Dream of Me * Georgia on My Mind * Hello, Dolly! * Mack the Knife * Makin' Whoopee! * Mame * St. Louis Blues * What a Wonderful World * When the Saints Go Marching In * Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah * and more.

Louis Armstrong - Original Keys for Singers (Songbook)

He was born \"Black, poor, and lucky.\" The glowing story of \"Satchmo\"—the great jazz musician, Louis Armstrong. Louis Armstrong has been called the most important improviser in the history of jazz. Although his New Orleans neighborhood was poor in nearly everything else, it was rich in superb music. Young Louis took it all in, especially the cornet blowing of Joe \"King\" Oliver. But after a run-in with the police, 11-year-old Louis was sent away to the Colored Waif's Home for Boys where he became a disciplined musician in the school's revered marching band. Ultimately, he was to travel the world from Chicago to Paris and would transform jazz through his improvised singing (\"scatting\") and masterful trumpet playing. He played with Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and other jazz greats of his day. Armstrong was the first African-American man to host a national radio show, and the first jazz musician to write an autobiography. This is a joyful tribute to the virtuoso musician and buoyant personality who introduced much of the world to jazz. The author's note includes a detailed biography and resources to learn more about Louis Armstrong and jazz.

Just a Lucky So and So

Provides an introduction to the life and biography of the popular African American jazz musician, Louis Armstrong.

Louis Armstrong

First captured on \"West End Blues\" and other now-classic recordings, Louis Armstrong's innovations immediately changed the face of American music. He was a dazzling showman and a true musical genius.

Louis Armstrong

Public Radio personality Tom Schnabel spotlights giants of the global genre like the late Sufi singer Nusrat Fete 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.

Rhythm Planet

Finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in Biography. "Profoundly evocative and altogether admirable...The writing and detail are so brilliant that I found the volume revelatory." —Tim Page, Washington Post 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.

Louis Armstrong, Master of Modernism

Describes the life of the jazz pioneer, including his childhood in Back o' Town New Orleans, his incredible career in music, and his four marriages.

The Life of Louis Armstrong

Depicts the life and career of the popular jazz musician and describes his contributions to American music.

Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong was the founding father of jazz and one of this century's towering cultural figures, yet the full story of his extravagant life has never been told. Born in 1901 to the sixteen-year-old daughter of a slave, he came of age among the prostitutes, pimps, and rag-and-bone merchants of New Orleans. He married four times and enjoyed countless romantic involvements in and around his marriages. A believer in marijuana for the head and laxatives for the bowels, he was also a prolific diarist and correspondent, a devoted friend to celebrities from Bing Crosby to Ella Fitzgerald, a perceptive social observer, and, in his later years, an international goodwill ambassador. And, of course, he was a dazzling musician. From the bordellos and honky-tonks of Storyville--New Orleans's red light district--to the upscale nightclubs in Chicago, New York, and Hollywood, Armstrong's stunning playing, gravelly voice, and irrepressible personality captivated audiences and critics alike. Recognized and beloved wherever he went, he nonetheless managed to remain vigorously himself. Now Laurence Bergreen's remarkable book brings to life the passionate, courageous, and charismatic figure who forever changed the face of American music.

Louis Armstrong

Louis \"Satchmo\" Armstrong was not only jazz's greatest musician and innovator, but also arguably its most famous entertainer and the frontal figure in the development of contemporary popular music. Overcoming social and political obstacles, he created a long and impressive career and an enormous musical output. Now, his ground breaking musical career is amassed and detailed in this discography of all his works, from professionally made commercial releases, to amateur and unissued recordings. All of Me is a comprehensive, chronological discography born out of love and admiration for Louis Armstrong, and devotion to years of collecting his musical accomplishments. Author Jos Willems has meticulously compiled all of Satchmo's known recordings-both studio and live performances-and with assistance from internationally renowned specialists, has assembled an impressively detailed, accurate, and complete listing. This volume is superbly formatted and presented, logically organized, and thoroughly indexed by song title and individual. Researchers, collectors, and enthusiasts can easily look up any detail of a recording: issues and releases of particular songs; publishing companies; producers; catalog numbers; dates, times, and locations of recordings; musicians Armstrong played with; and format, be it 78 or 45 RPM records, LPs, CDs, or media appearances. Every detail of Armstrong's career is listed in this impressive volume, shedding light on the enormity of his impact on jazz and popular culture. This is the ultimate reference guide for the complete works of Louis Armstrong.

All of Me

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