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Louis Armstrong
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Louis Armstrong (August 4, 1901 – July 6, 1971), nicknamed Satchmo or Pops, was an American jazz trumpeter and singer from New Orleans, Louisiana. Coming to prominence in the 1920s as an "inventive" cornet and trumpet player, Armstrong was a foundational influence in jazz, shifting the music's focus from collective improvisation to solo performance.

With his instantly recognizable deep and distinctive gravelly voice, Armstrong was also an influential singer, demonstrating great dexterity as an improviser, bending the lyrics and melody of a song for expressive purposes. He was also greatly skilled at scat singing (vocalizing using sounds and syllables instead of actual lyrics).

Renowned for his charismatic stage presence and voice almost as much as for his trumpet-playing, Armstrong's influence extends well beyond jazz music, and by the end of his career in the 1960s, he was widely regarded as a profound influence on popular music in general.

Armstrong was one of the first truly popular African-American entertainers to "cross over," whose skin-color was secondary to his music in an America that was severely racially divided. He had socially acceptable access to the upper echelons of American society that were highly restricted for a black man. He rarely publicly politicized his race, often to the dismay of fellow African-Americans, he was privately a strong supporter of the Civil Rights movement in America.



Pops is still making the news with this story at the BBC about one of his very last performances being released:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-17873153>

Final Armstrong record released, the last live recording of jazz legend Louis Armstrong, performing shortly before his death against the advice of his doctors, is made public.

Whatever the divided opinions regarding the merits of Louis Armstrong and his Harlem Hot Rhythm Band might be, the combination is certainly a good theatre "draw," and a large audience was present in the Empire last night when they paid a return visit to Glasgow. The music supplied by Louis Armstrong is undoubtedly of the ultra-modern "hot" variety, and, particularly amongst the younger section of his listeners last night, the various numbers were well received. The leader's energetic antics on the stage, however, and his repeated vocal efforts did not appear to be universally popular. A clever performer in the variety part of the programme was Freddy Zay, who did some amazing juggling feats while balanced precariously on a high one-wheeled cycle. Other "turns" were given by Jamie Reid and the Four Foolies. Half of the programme was devoted to the "Miss 1933" Revue, which was vivacious and colourful. The leading artists in this section were Anne Day, Hermon Wells, Sam Eccles, Jack Browning, Arthur Carvey, Nancy Hastings, and Rowe and Clairé.

Glasgow's appreciation of "Half-Past Eight" continues unabated, and there was another large

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Would you believe it! Pops is back in the charts in the UK. His 'Best of Louis Armstrong' CD is in the album charts, which only goes to prove that Pops' music is as timeless as time itself. Move over all you little dogs, the big dog's back in town!

