



Louis Armstrong

(August 4, 1901 – July 6, 1971)

It would be dam near criminal for me not to mention Satchmo. Like with all things that are built, whether as an idea or a structure of some type, they must all have a foundation from which it all started. The foundation must be solid and strong. If you ask any artist of the past and present of the foundation for Jazz, no doubt many would say Louis Armstrong was that foundation.

Pops talents seemed limitless as he demonstrated on a number of occasions. Perfecting the scat was just one of his many skills. His concerts and shows became famous as he always made the audience feel better after the show than they did before. Satchmo achievements were many but the greatest was to cross the color bearer in the entertainment world and be recognized for his talents rather than his color.

In those days, that was quite an accomplishment, as much of America considered black people as 2nd, 3rd or even 4th class people of the country. If Louis had a secret to his many talents, it would be his charismatic charm as he used it to maximum effect to get not only himself, but his singing partners, playing partners and the audience smiling and happy based upon the music he played.



Armstrong played a bandleader in the television production, "The Lord Don't Play Favorites", on *Producers' Showcase* in 1956.

Another great achievement of Pops was his ability to not only influence Jazz, but Pop music as well. During many turbulent times, Satchmo used his charm to the best of his ability to make people feel better no matter what color they were. His tactics did not settle well with critics whom believe he was a “Yes Man” play to white people.



"Muggles"

Louie was making music on albums before there were album covers. Yet there were times when even he made political statements, but Satchmo always played his strength and that was his music. Louis spearheaded access to the American upper class society that many black people enjoy today.



"Skokiaan"

Louis Armstrong achievements many dream about. To have come from such a poor back ground to such an achievement shows the true determinations of a professional entertainer. I saw one of Satchmos last shows that was televised. I had to admit, his style worked even on me. I felt better after the show was over. His smile and charm alone kept him as one of the best entertainers, now add his trumpet and you really have a treat.



"Mack The Knife"



"Heebie Jeebies" by Louis



Pops was a strong trumpet player, forceful and bright Louie solos were something to hear alone. His trademark was his hankie where he used to keep the forehead and lips dry. His most popular music “Hello Dolly”, should have been patented and established as a national treasure.

Louis Armstrong spearheaded many firsts. He did not invent Jazz, but he was a great influence in it. Along with Charlie Parker they spearheaded the evolution of Jazz that grew to the great sounds that we have from the current musicians today.

Bill Sommerville