





Louis Armstrong's achievements are remarkable. During his career, he:

- Developed a way of playing jazz, as an instrumentalist and a vocalist, which has had an impact on all musicians to follow
- Recorded hit songs for five decades, and his music is still heard today on television and audio and in film
- Wrote two autobiographies, more than ten magazine articles, hundreds of pages of memoirs, and thousands of letters
- Was the only Black Jazz musician to publicly speak out against school segregation in 1957
  - So popular that warring sides in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Central Africa temporarily stopped fighting in 1960 to attend an Armstrong concert
- Appeared in more than thirty films (over twenty were full-length features) as a gifted actor with superb comic timing and an unabashed joy of life Composed dozens of songs that have become jazz standards
- Performed an average of 300 concerts each year, with his frequent tours to all parts of the world earning him the nickname "Ambassador Satch," and became one of the first great celebrities of the twentieth century.

Through the years, Louis, entertained millions from heads of state, royalty, and to the kids on his stoop in Corona, NY. Despite his fame he remained a humble man and lived a simple life in a working-class neighborhood. To this day, everyone loves Louis Armstrong. Just the mention of his name makes people smile.

## The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation

(LAEF) was founded and funded by Louis and Lucille Armstrong in 1969 to give back to the world "some of the goodness he received." The mission of the organization is to preserve and promote the cultural legacy of Louis Armstrong by fostering programs, lectures, and other educational events to assist those interested, gifted and talented in the field of music, primarily jazz. Today the Foundation is a major source of funding for programs to expose and educate adults and children in the history of American jazz and has provided solid financial support to institutions across the nation.

I want to give back some of what I received

–Louis Armstrong

## **CALVIN JOHNSON & NATIVE SON**

Calvin Johnson is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation saxophonist, composer and bandleader born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. Johnson was able to nurture and expand his love and interest in the basic business at the famed Louis Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp then the performing arts high school the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA). Johnson then furthered his education by graduating from the School of Business at the University of New Orleans. Calvin has toured and/or recorded with the likes of: Harry Connick Jr., Aaron Neville, Jason Derulo, Blind Boys of Alabama, Irma Thomas, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Mannie Fresh, Mystikal, Irvin Mayfield, the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, In the winter of 2022, Calvin released his third studio album, Notes of a Native Son, to rave reviews. The project is Johnson's most recent, and also his first that features his composition and arranging skills. He is proud to have been recognized by Downbeat Magazine with 4 out of 5 starts as well as labeled on of the best albums of 2022.



## DO YOU KNOW?

- 1. What city was Louis Armstrong from?
- 2. What instrument did Louis Armstrong play?
- 3. What was Louis Armstrong's nickname?
- 4. Where did Louis Armstrong call after leaving New Orleans?
- 5. What role did Louis Armstrong serve in with the US State Department?

See Answers on next page



wbgo kids jazz concert series debuted in 1994 as a way to bring free, quality arts education to children and families in and around Newark. Over the past 30 years, thousands of children have attended the performances, many of whom now bring their own children to concerts. Each concert includes great music by accomplished musicians presenting an educational theme in a fun, family-friendly environment. The series teaches youngsters about the history and influence of America's greatest original art form, jazz. By doing so, we work to develop the next generation of jazz musicians and aficionados.



## **ABOUT WBGO**

Public Radio is a non-profit, publicly funded arts and cultural institution dedicated to the curation, presentation, and preservation of music created out of the African Americanexperience. We are

committed to providing our community with independently produced music programming and journalism for the purpose of public enrichment, entertainment, and insight. We serve our community

of Newark and Essex County residents with a variety of educational and outreach programs for adults and children of all ages. WBGO reaches an audience of over 350,000 individuals throughout

Northern New Jersey and across the New York City metro area. Thousands more across the country and around the globe stream our signal over **wbgo.org** or via our app.

Answers: 1. New Orleans / 2. Trumpet / 3. Satchmo / 4. Queens, NY / 5. Cultural Ambassador

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