

# Louis Armstrong



Louis Armstrong was born into poverty on August 4, 1901 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Louis had a rough childhood, working as a paperboy, a coal hauler, street corner singer and many other unusual jobs. He learned to play the cornet under many of New Orleans' popular musicians and became a band leader at the age of 18. By 1923 he was playing with well-known bands and had been recorded for the first time. Louis' influence was essential to the sound of the swing era and the popularity of jazz, and he became known world wide as 'The Ambassador of Jazz'. Louis continued to perform into the late 1960s, and in 1964 was the oldest musician to have a #1 song, beating The Beatles at the height of their popularity.