

Objective

- Introduction to the life of Louis Armstrong through student reading and listening example

Materials

- **PowerPoint:** Lesson 3 - *Louis Armstrong* page 9
- **JAZZ CLUB Listening Example:** *St. Louis Blues* page 10
- **Student Worksheet:** Lesson 3 - *Lesson and Listening Assessments* page 11

I. PowerPoint Louis Armstrong

1. Show the students PowerPoint Lesson 3 and have students take turns reading the slides.
2. Have students complete the Lesson ASSESSMENT individually or as a class.

Louis Armstrong, born in 1901 in New Orleans, became one of the world's most loved entertainers and jazz musicians. Louis, nicknamed "Satchmo," played trumpet and sang with a scratchy voice. He played the first style of jazz called Dixieland jazz. Louis was mischievous as a young boy, landing in a home for troubled boys at age 13. While there, Louis begged the music teacher to let him join the band. The teacher agreed and lent Louis a cornet which is very similar to the trumpet. Armstrong learned fast and soon met one of the first great jazz trumpet players, Joe "King" Oliver, who became Louis' teacher and friend. Oliver helped Satchmo get his long musical career started.

Armstrong could produce a beautiful tone on the trumpet even when playing the highest notes. He held a white handkerchief in one hand that hid the **valves** of the trumpet. This kept other musicians from seeing the notes Louis was playing and then stealing his ideas.

One day, as Satchmo was recording a song he forgot the words. Instead of stopping, Louis made up nonsense words called **scat singing**. The song, which included one of the first ever recordings of **scat singing**, was a big hit.

Armstrong began his musical career playing on riverboats. It did not end until he had performed around the world. Louis reached number one on the pop charts with the songs "What a Wonderful World" and "Hello Dolly." He also appeared in several movies. When Louis died in 1971, he was so popular that twenty thousand people came to pay their respects.

ANSWER KEY Student Reading Lesson ASSESSMENT

1. Where was Louis Armstrong born? (*New Orleans*)
2. What was Louis Armstrong's nickname? (*Satchmo*)
3. Define scat singing? (*Singing nonsense syllables instead of words*)
4. Why did Satchmo scat sing on one of his early hit records?
(*While recording he forgot the words and made up nonsense syllables*)
5. Why did Armstrong use a handkerchief to hide the valves of his trumpet?
(*So others couldn't "steal" his ideas*)

II. JAZZ CLUB Listening Example

Title: “St. Louis Blues”

Composer: W. C. Handy

Performer: Louis Armstrong and His Orchestra

available on: *Louis Louis Armstrong, Vol. 6: St. Louis Blues* (Columbia/Legacy CK 46996)

YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=6j_AzM7TTNo [3:05 Process/Assessment below]

iTunes *Ken Burns “Jazz”* CD 2 track 4 [Process/Assessment below]

Suggested YouTube Search St. Louis Blues, Louis Armstrong 1929 [1st - other choices: 9, 15]

SUGGESTED TEACHING PROCESS JAZZ CLUB Listening

1. Explain that although the piece is Dixieland jazz the beginning section of the melody is not swing rhythm but closer to a tango rhythm. Students will hear:

Brass section: 2 trumpets - Louis Armstrong and trombone

Woodwind section: 2 clarinets, 2 saxophones

Rhythm section: piano, bass, guitar and drum set

2. Students practice conducting slow, medium or fast tempos in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 meters.
3. Review improvisation and jazz solo and ask students to listen for which instruments improvise a jazz solo during the song.
4. Explain that Louis Armstrong is the singer as well as one of the trumpeters.
5. Instruct students to listen for the instruments, tempo, meter, mood and style.
6. Play recording while conducting a moderato tempo with a 4/4 meter.

Video locations: 0:01 A section - tango rhythm (trumpet melody with group improvisation), 0:12 B section - swing rhythm, 0:44 trombone solo – tango, 1:06 Armstrong sings – swing, 1:38 trombone solo, 1:55 trumpet solo, 2:27 group “shout chorus” (“Shout chorus” – group plays simple repeating melody)

7. Have students complete the Listening ASSESSMENT individually or as a class.

ANSWER KEY JAZZ CLUB Listening ASSESSMENT

1. Identify the instruments you hear. (9) (*Trumpets – Louis Armstrong, clarinets, saxophones, trombone, piano, bass, guitar, drum set and voice – Louis Armstrong*)
2. Determine the tempo and the meter. (*Fast [allegro], 4/4*)
3. Which instruments improvised a jazz solo? (2) (*Trombone and trumpet*)
4. What is the name of the trumpet player/singer? (*Louis Armstrong*)
5. Name the style of this piece. (*Dixieland*)
6. Identify the two different types of rhythms you heard. (*Swing, tango*)

Related Activity *JAMMIN' WITH THE JAZZ CATS* Orff Improvisation Songbook

GEE MY E'S MUST B^b Pages 12-15

- Orff mallet instrument (recorder) song E G B^b
- Swing/blues style
- *Performance and Accompaniment* CD tracks
- Improvisation lesson

