

# Louis Armstrong Quotes

*Music, Jazz, Blow, Play, Heart, Mean, Men, Two, Way, New Orleans, Baby,  
Giving, Cat, Inspirational, People, America, Thinking, Country, Beautiful,  
Musician*

Every time I close my eyes blowing that trumpet of mine, I look right into the heart of good old New Orleans. It has given me something to live for.

~Louis Armstrong

Musicians don't retire; they stop when there's no more music in them.

~Louis Armstrong

Don't do nothing halfway, else you find yourself dropping more than can be picked up.

~Louis Armstrong

What we play is life.

~Louis Armstrong

My whole life, my whole soul, my whole spirit is to blow that horn.

~Louis Armstrong

I got a simple rule about everybody. If you don't treat me right - shame on you.

~Louis Armstrong

If I don't practice for a day, I know it. If I don't practice for two days, the critics know it. And if I don't practice for three days, the public knows it.

~Louis Armstrong

Each man has his own music bubbling up inside him.

~Louis Armstrong

And I think to myself what a wonderful world. Oh, yeah.

~Louis Armstrong

If you have to ask what jazz is, you'll never know.

~Louis Armstrong

It really puzzles me to see marijuana connected with narcotics dope and all of that stuff. It is a thousand times better than whiskey. It is an assistant and a friend.

~Louis Armstrong

A lotta cats copy the Mona Lisa, but people still line up to see the original.

~Louis Armstrong

All music is folk music. I ain't never heard a horse sing a song.

~Louis Armstrong

To jazz, or not to jazz, there is no question!

~Louis Armstrong

Jazz is played from the heart. You can even live by it. Always love it.

~Louis Armstrong

There is no such thing as 'on the way out' as long as you are still doing something interesting and good; you're in the business because you're breathing.

~Louis Armstrong

You got to love to be able to play

~Louis Armstrong

Give me a kiss to build a dream on  
And my imagination will thrive upon  
that kiss Sweetheart, I ask no more than this  
A kiss to build a dream on.

~Louis Armstrong

You've got to be good or as bad as the devil.

~Louis Armstrong

We all do 'do, re, mi,' but you have got to find the other notes yourself.

~Louis Armstrong

I don't let my mouth say nothin' my head can't stand.

~Louis Armstrong

There are Two Secrets to Success: 1. Don't tell ANYONE Everything you know 2.If you have to ask what Jazz is, you'll never know.

~Louis Armstrong

All them weird chords which don't mean a thing...you got no melody to remember, and no beat to dance to

~Louis Armstrong

The best I can do is stay happy.

~Louis Armstrong

Love is talkative passion.

~Louis Armstrong

The memory of things gone is important to a jazz musician. Things like old folks singing in the moonlight in the back yard on a hot night or something said long ago.

~Louis Armstrong

You blows who you is.

~Louis Armstrong

Never play anything the same way twice.

~Louis Armstrong

When you're dead, you're done.

~Louis Armstrong

It makes you feel good, man, makes you forget all the bad things that happen to a Negro. It makes you feel wanted, and when you're with another tea smoker, it makes you feel a special kinship.

~Louis Armstrong

[Bebop is] Chinese music.

~Louis Armstrong

I don't need words. It's all in the phrasing.

~Louis Armstrong

You either have it or you don't. You play your horn just like you sing a song or a hymn. If it's in your heart, you express yourself in the tune.

~Louis Armstrong

If it hadn't been for Jazz, there wouldn't be no rock and roll.

~Louis Armstrong

Never play a thing the same way twice.

~Louis Armstrong

It's America's classical music ... this becomes our tradition ... the bottom line of any country in the world is what did we contribute to the world? ... we contributed Louis Armstrong

~Louis Armstrong

If ya ain't got it in ya, ya can't blow it out.

~Louis Armstrong

There's only two ways to sum up music; either it's good or it's bad. If it's good you don't mess about it, you just enjoy it.

~Louis Armstrong

I'm a spade, you're an ofay. Let's play.

~Louis Armstrong

Red beans and ricely yours.

~Louis Armstrong

If you still have to ask, shame on you

~Louis Armstrong

Not too slow, not too fast. Kind of like half-fast.

~Louis Armstrong

Even If I have two three days off, you still have to blow that horn. You have to keep up those chops... I have to warm up everyday for at least an hour.

~Louis Armstrong

I don't get involved in politics. I just blow my horn.

~Louis Armstrong

When I go to the Gate, I'll play a duet with Gabriel. Yeah, we'll play 'Sleepy Time Down South' and 'Hello, Dolly!.' Then he can blow a couple that he's been playing up there all the time.

~Louis Armstrong

You will never know what the meaning of Jazz is if ask what it means.

~Louis Armstrong

At first it was just a misdemeanor, but then you lost the "mis-de" and you just got meaner and meaner.

~Louis Armstrong

Music is either good or bad, and it's got to be learned. You got to have balance.

~Louis Armstrong

It ain't whatcha say, it's the way howcha say it.

~Louis Armstrong

Jazz is what I play for a living.

~Louis Armstrong

I had a chance to play with the best musicians that were coming through because I was pretty good myself or else they wouldn't have tolerated with me.

~Louis Armstrong

The way they are treating my people in the South, the government can go to hell!

~Louis Armstrong

When you're with another tea smoker it makes you feel a special kinship.

~Louis Armstrong

I've Got the World on a String.

~Louis Armstrong

There's a thing I've dreamed of all my life, and I'll be damned if it don't look like it's about to come true-to be King of the Zulu's parade. After that, I'll be ready to die.

~Louis Armstrong

White folks still in the lead.

~Louis Armstrong

Unless you know what it is I ain't never going to be able to explain it to you.

~Louis Armstrong

It's getting almost so bad a colored man hasn't got any country.

~Louis Armstrong

We don't play slow and we don't play fast, we play half fast

~Louis Armstrong

If you don't understand it, don't mess with it.

~Louis Armstrong



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