

racial and cultural boundaries.

One of Handy's most famous compositions is "St. Louis Blues," which has become a standard in jazz and blues repertoires. Other notable works by Handy include "Beale Street Blues," "Memphis Blues," and "Careless Love."

In addition to his work as a composer, Handy was a skilled musician who played the cornet and trumpet. He also had a successful career as a band-leader and music publisher. Throughout his life, Handy advocated for recognition and respect for African American music and musicians, helping to pave the way for future generations of artists.

W. C. Handy's legacy continues to influence and inspire musicians worldwide, and his contributions to the blues genre remain celebrated and honored to this day.



LOUIS ARMSTRONG Plays W. C. HANDY



"Louis Armstrong Plays W. C. Handy" by Louis Armstrong, released in 1954 by Columbia Records. The album is a tribute to W. C. Handy, often referred to as the "Father of the Blues," who was a prominent African American composer and musician known for his contributions to the blues genre.

This album features Louis Armstrong's iconic trumpet playing and his distinctive gravelly voice. It includes renditions of several W. C. Handy classics, such as "St. Louis Blues," "Beale Street Blues," "Loveless Love," and "Atlanta Blues."

"St. Louis Blues" is perhaps the most well-known track from the album, showcasing Armstrong's virtuosity on the trumpet and his soulful vocal delivery. The album is considered a landmark in jazz music and remains highly regarded by fans and critics alike.

Louis Armstrong's interpretation of W. C. Handy's

compositions on this album helped introduce Handy's music to a broader audience and solidified Armstrong's reputation as one of the greatest jazz musicians of all time.

William Christopher Handy, commonly known as W. C. Handy, was a prominent African American composer and musician who played a pivotal role in the development and popularization of blues music. He was born on November 16, 1873, in Florence, Alabama, and passed away on March 28, 1958.

Handy is often referred to as the "Father of the Blues" due to his significant contributions to the genre. He was instrumental in bringing blues music from its regional roots in the Southern United States to national and international prominence. Handy's compositions blended elements of African American folk music, spirituals, and ragtime, creating a distinctive sound that resonated with audiences across



Louis Armstrong – Plays W. C. Handy

LOUIS ARMSTRONG *Plays* W. C. HANDY

- 1 St. Louis Blues 8:54
- 2 Yellow Dog Blues 4:15
- 3 Loveless Love 4:32
- 4 Aunt Hagar's Blues 4:57
- 5 Long Gone (From The Bowlin' Green) 4:14
- 6 The Memphis Blues (Or Mister Crump) 3:00
- 7 Beale Street Blues 4:58
- 8 Ole Miss 4:39
- 9 Chantez Les Bas (Sing 'Em Low) 4:48
- 10 Hesitating Blues 5:20
- 11 Atlanta Blues (Make Me One Pallet On Your Floor) 4:33

Recorded 1954 by Columbia • George Avakian • Engineer – Mason Coppinger



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Louis Armstrong – Plays W. C. Handy

