



Swing That Music

By Louis Armstrong

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Swing That Music By Louis Armstrong

The first autobiography of a jazz musician, Louis Armstrong's *Swing That Music* is a milestone in jazz literature. Armstrong wrote most of the biographical material, which is of a different nature and scope than that of his other, later autobiography, *Satchmo: My Life in New Orleans* (also published by Da Capo/Perseus Books Group). *Satchmo* covers in intimate detail Armstrong's life until his 1922 move to Chicago; but *Swing That Music* also covers his days on Chicago's South Side with "King" Oliver, his courtship and marriage to Lil Hardin, his 1929 move to New York, the formation of his own band, his European tours, and his international success. One of the most earnest justifications ever written for the new style of music then called "swing" but more broadly referred to as "Jazz," *Swing That Music* is a biography, a history, and an entertainment that really "swings."

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Editorial Review

Review

"Advertised in 1936 as "the first standard book in English on the new Swing Music," Louis Armstrong's partly ghostwritten *Swing That Music* remains a fascinating text. The musical examples and Rudy Vallee's oddly astute prologue complement the lively if often inaccurate narrative. Some of it is surely true, but I wouldn't bet on the passages concerning Armstrong's love of Mark Twain." -- *Gary Giddins, author of Satchmo and Faces in the Crowd*

"It could well be said that Louis Armstrong spent a lifetime working on his autobiography. From his earliest surviving letter (dated 1922) to his final sketches (from 1969), he spun out tales that add up to fascinating variations on a theme. His first published book, *Swing That Music*, is not always in his own true voice, but enough of it is to make it much more than a historical curiosity. No more fitting subject could be imagined for the very first biography of a jazz musician. But *Swing That Music* (astonishingly out of print for some 55 years) is not only a biography, but also one of the earliest American attempts to trace the development of jazz--then thought to be something that culminated in a music called 'Swing.'" -- *Dan Morgenstern, Director, Institute of Jazz Studies, and author of Jazz People*

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

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Jeffrey Barclay:

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