

TWO LEGENDS OF JAZZ MUSIC...



DUKE ELLINGTON (1899-1974) pianist, composer, bandleader

- Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was born and raised in Washington, D.C.
- He was given the nickname "Duke" in grade school by friends who noticed his stately appearance.
- Originally Duke wanted to become a painter, but he soon realized he had a knack for composing "portraits in sound."
- He led one of the most successful big bands of the Swing Era during the 1930s, and continued touring and writing new music his whole life.
- He wrote music that reflected the everyday experience of the African-American, from popular songs to long, classical-style suites and even religious music.

-Some of his greatest hits include "Take the 'A' Train," "Mood Indigo," "In A Sentimental Mood," "Sophisticated Lady," and "It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing."

LOUIS ARMSTRONG (1901-1971) trumpet player and singer

- Born to a poor family in New Orleans, LA.
- His friends called him "Satchelmouth" because of his rather large mouth; later this was shortened to his famous nickname, "Satchmo."
- He learned to play jazz trumpet from his hero, Joe "King" Oliver, who hired him and took him to Chicago.
- Armstrong became the first superstar of jazz; as "Ambassador Satch," he spread this new American music all over the world.
- His high-note playing, swinging melodic improvisation, and gravelly-voiced "scat" singing made Louis' music irresistible to jazz audiences in the 1920s and 30s.
- His greatest hits include "Hello, Dolly," "What A Wonderful World," "A Kiss To Build A Dream On," "West End Blues," "Hotter Than That," and "When The Saints Go Marching In."

