

# The Life and Music of Mary Lou Williams: A Trailblazing Jazz Pianist and Composer



**Soul on Soul: The Life and Music of Mary Lou Williams**  
**(Music in American Life)** by Tammy L. Kernodle

★★★★★ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 4791 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 375 pages



## Early Life and Career

Mary Lou Williams was born on October 8, 1910, in Atlanta, Georgia. She began playing the piano at an early age and was soon recognized for her prodigious talent. In the 1920s, she moved to New York City, where she quickly стала a fixture on the jazz scene.

Williams played with some of the biggest names in jazz, including Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Charlie Parker. She was also a prolific composer and arranger, and her work has been recorded by countless artists.

## Influences and Innovations

Williams was influenced by a wide range of musical styles, including jazz, blues, gospel, and classical music. She was also a pioneer in the use of electronic instruments, and her work helped to shape the sound of modern jazz.

Williams was a master of improvisation, and her solos were often characterized by their harmonic complexity and rhythmic drive. She was also a gifted композитор, and her songs have been praised for their melodic beauty and lyrical sophistication.

## Legacy

Mary Lou Williams died on May 28, 1981, but her music continues to be celebrated and performed around the world. She is considered one of the most influential jazz musicians of all time, and her work has served as an inspiration to generations of musicians.

In addition to her musical accomplishments, Williams was also a dedicated activist for social justice. She was a member of the NAACP and the Congress of Racial Equality, and she used her music to speak out against racism and discrimination.

Mary Lou Williams was a true pioneer in jazz music. She was a brilliant pianist, composer, and arranger, and her work has had a profound impact on the development of jazz. She was also a courageous activist for social justice, and her legacy continues to inspire musicians and activists around the world.

### **Here are some of Mary Lou Williams' most famous songs:**

\* "The Zodiac Suite" \* "Roll 'Em" \* "In the Land of Oo-Bla-Dee" \* "Lonely Moments" \* "What's Your Story, Morning Glory?"

### **Additional Resources**

\* [Mary Lou Williams Official Website](#) \* [Mary Lou Williams Foundation](#) \* [Mary Lou Williams Discography](#) \* [Mary Lou Williams Biography](#)

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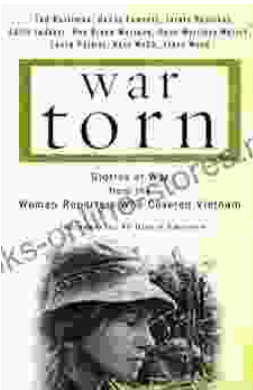
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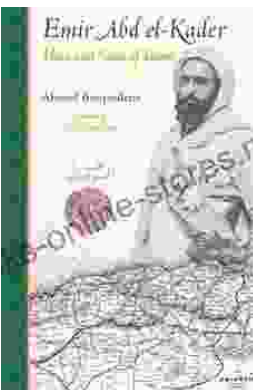


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