

## Lil Hardin Armstrong - 1936-1940 (The Chronological Classics) [1991]

Written by bluesever

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01 - Or Leave Me Alone 02 - My Hi-De-Ho-Man 03 - Brown Gal 04 - Doin' The Suzie-Q  
05 - Just For A Thrill 06 - It's Murder 07 - Born To Swing 08 - (I'm On A) Sit-Down Strike For  
Rhythm 09 - Bluer Than Blue 10 - I'm Knockin At The Cabin Door 11 - Lindy Hop 12 -  
When I Went Back Home 13 - Let's Call It Love 14 - You Mean So Much To Me 15 - Let's  
Get Happy Together 16 - Happy Today, Sad Tomorrow 17 - You Shall Reap What You Sow  
18 - Oriental Swing 19 - Safely Locked Up In My Heart 20 - Everything's Wrong, Ain't Nothing  
Right 21 - Harlem On Saturday Night 22 - Knock-Kneed Sal (On The Mourner's Bench) 23 -  
Sixth Street 24 - Riffin' The Blues 25 - Why Is A Good Man So Hard To Find 26 - My Secret  
Flame

Lil Hardin is perhaps best known as the second wife of Louis Armstrong, whom she met when they both performed in King Oliver's Creole Jazzband. Lil Hardin was the band's pianist. People are fond of describing her as a mediocre pianist, but we think she deserves better. But where she really shines and deserves far more recognition than she gets is as a vocalist and band leader. That is what you can hear on this CD, which includes 26 superb tracks featuring Lil as leader of her own Swing Orchestra. She is a dynamic, high-energy vocalist somewhat resembling Blanche Calloway, Cab's big sister. She leads a swinging jazz band featuring some excellent musicians, including Chu Berry and Jonah Jones. She does particularly well with dance numbers such as Doin' the Suzy-Q and Lindy Hop, and we especially enjoy her song about the mysterious and ominous Knock-Kneed Sal on the Mourner's Bench. --- heptune.com

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