

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Morris Area Public Library
Jackie Hanson, Director
jhanson@morrislibrary.com
815-942-6880

Morris Area Public Library to host presentation on *Louis Armstrong: The Hot Fives and Hot Sevens* with Illinois Humanities Road Scholar Dr. John Cooper

Morris, IL - July 14, 2026 - The Morris Area Public Library invites the community to experience the music that helped define an American art form during "Louis Armstrong: The Hot Fives and Hot Sevens," an engaging presentation by renowned jazz educator Dr. John Cooper on Saturday, July 25, 2026 from 1-2PM at the library.

Presented as part of the Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, this free program explores the landmark recordings Louis Armstrong made in Chicago between 1925 and 1928, recordings that transformed jazz and forever changed the course of American music.

Through historical storytelling, audio recordings, multimedia, and live demonstrations using authentic period instruments, Dr. Cooper will bring this pivotal era of jazz to life. His interactive presentation offers audiences a unique opportunity to hear and better understand the innovations that made Armstrong one of the most influential musicians in history.

Dr. Cooper is Professor Emeritus of Jazz Studies at Western Illinois University, where he spent nearly three decades teaching jazz history, performance, composition, and pedagogy. During his tenure, he directed more than 300 performances and has earned a reputation for making jazz accessible and engaging for musicians and non-musicians alike. As a returning Illinois Humanities Road Scholar, Cooper is passionate about preserving America's jazz heritage and helping audiences appreciate the artistry, creativity, and collaborative spirit that define the genre.

The presentation is designed for a general audience of all ages, with no prior musical knowledge required. Student musicians and aspiring artists may find the program especially inspiring.

This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

For more information about this presentation and other events at the Morris Area Public Library, please visit our website at www.morrislibrary.com or contact us at 815-942-6880.

About Illinois Humanities: Illinois Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that activates the humanities through free public programs, grants, and educational opportunities that spark conversation, foster reflection, build community, and strengthen civic engagement for everyone in Illinois. Founded in 1974, Illinois Humanities is the state partner for the National Endowment for the Humanities and is supported by state,

federal, and private funds. Learn more and stay connected on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and LinkedIn @ILHumanities.

About Morris Area Public Library: The Morris Area Public Library's mission is to provide materials, programming, and space to cultivate curiosity, enlighten the mind, and strengthen the community. We strive to offer diverse and enriching experiences for all members of our community.

###