



Mary Lou WILLIAMS

Mary Lou Williams (1910-1981) was a pioneer jazz pianist and composer. Born in Atlanta, she taught herself to play piano by ear and moved to Kansas City in 1929, working during the peak of the city's jazz era. Mary Lou was hailed for her prowess as a soloist and composer for Andy Kirk's Twelve Clouds of Joy band. She also arranged hit songs for other popular band leaders and went on to perform with Duke Ellington. Mary Lou Williams Lane, near 10th and Paseo, is named after her.