

Selected Clips from the Louis Armstrong Jazz Oral History Project The New York Public Library

Video Gallery Clip Transcript: Jimmy Heath

Storytelling is gathered information from life, the way you live and what's going on with your life, you try to tell that story. So say for example, I tell a student, you're playing Ram Ramirez' song called Lover Man and I say OK the lyrics say I don't know why but I'm feeling so sad so if you you play [demonstrates] you're not saying anything. But if you say [demonstrates] you're putting the emotional part of the lyric, you're interpreting the lyric for what it says. Now Ben Webster the great saxophonist said he never played a song if he didn't know the words as far as ballads are concerned. So he was one the greatest ballad players of all times. He sang the song to the people.