Louis Armstrong and His Hot Five - Hotter Than That (L. Hardin)

Recorded in Chicago, December 9, 1927

Instrumentation

Louis Armstrong – cornet, and 'scat' vocal Kid Ory - trombone Johnny Dodds - clarinet Lil Armstrong - piano Johnny St. Cyr - banjo Lonnie Johnson - guitar

Ensemble roles

Cornet

The lead melody instrument, and also a featured soloist.

Clarinet

Mid-texture contrapuntal interplay (largely quaver-based), weaving around the cornet and trombone. Also a featured soloist.

Trombone

Outlining the harmony (quasi bass role, note values based mainly on semibreves, minims and crotchets). Also a featured soloist.

Piano

Harmonic and rhythmic accompaniment, based on the 'four-to-the-bar style' but also including quaver ornamentation - particularly at cadence points. In this ensemble the piano is largely responsible for supplying an arpeggio-style bass line (in the absence of a bass instrument).

Banjo

Harmonic and rhythmic accompaniment, based upon the 'four-to-the-bar' style (making a downward strum on each crotchet beat of the bar).

Guitar

Harmonic and rhythmic accompaniment, based upon the 'four-to-the-bar' style. The guitar would normally replace the banjo. However, in this ensemble it joins the banjo, making an unusual 'special guest appearance' as a featured instrument in the guitar/cornet duet in Chorus 3, in the following 'call and response' interlude and at the end of the piece.

