**Ella Fitzgerald**

**Ella Jane Fitzgerald** (April 25, 1917 – June 15, 1996) was an American [jazz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz) singer often referred to as the [First Lady of Song](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honorific_nicknames_in_popular_music), Queen of Jazz and Lady Ella. She was noted for her purity of tone, impeccable diction, phrasing and[intonation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intonation_(music)), and a "horn-like" improvisational ability, particularly in her [scat singing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scat_singing).

After tumultuous teenage years, Fitzgerald found stability in musical success with the [Chick Webb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chick_Webb) Orchestra, performing across the country, but most often associated with the [Savoy Ballroom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savoy_Ballroom) in [Harlem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlem). Fitzgerald's rendition of the [nursery rhyme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nursery_rhyme) "[A-Tisket, A-Tasket](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A-Tisket,_A-Tasket)" helped boost both her and Webb to national fame. Taking over the band after Webb died, Fitzgerald left it behind in 1942 to start a solo career that would last effectively the rest of her life.

Signed with manager and Savoy co-founder Moe Gale from early in her career, she eventually gave managerial control for her performance and recording career to [Norman Granz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Granz), who built up the label [Verve Records](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verve_Records) based in part on Fitzgerald's vocal abilities. With Verve she recorded some of her more widely noted works, particularly her interpretation of the [Great American Songbook](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_American_Songbook).