**Nat King Cole**

**Nathaniel Adams Coles** (March 17, 1919 – February 15, 1965), known professionally as **Nat King Cole**, was an American singer who first came to prominence as a leading [jazz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz) pianist. He was widely noted for his soft [baritone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baritone) voice, performing in [big band](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_band) and jazz genres, and was a major force in popular music for three decades. Cole was one of the first African Americans to host a national television [variety show](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variety_show), *The Nat King Cole Show*. His recordings remained popular worldwide after his death from lung cancer in February 1965.