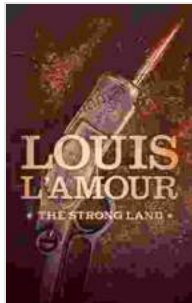


# The Strong Land Western Sextet: A Legendary Ensemble that Shaped Western Music



## The Strong Land: A Western Sextet

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3237 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 92 pages
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Western music, an enduring genre steeped in the cowboy culture of the American West, has been captivating audiences for decades. Amidst the genre's illustrious history, The Strong Land Western Sextet stands as one of the most significant and influential ensembles, shaping the very foundation of Western music.

## Early Beginnings and Formation

The roots of The Strong Land Western Sextet can be traced back to the bustling streets of Los Angeles, California, in the early 1940s. The ensemble's founder, guitarist and vocalist Glenn Strong, shared a common aspiration with a group of like-minded musicians: to create music that celebrated the spirit and heritage of the American West.

Strong, alongside accordionist Jesse Ashlock, fiddler Clayton McMichen, bassist Dud Bascomb, vocalist Mary Lou Jones, and drummer Bud Hobbs, formed The Strong Land Western Sextet in 1945. Their unique blend of traditional Western melodies with modern swing and jazz influences set them apart from their contemporaries.

### **Commercial Success and Radio Stardom**

The sextet's talent and infectious energy quickly gained recognition. In 1946, they were signed to Capitol Records, a major label, and released their debut album, "The Strong Land Western Sextet." The album became an instant hit, captivating audiences with its lively Western tunes and flawless harmonies.

Their popularity soared with regular appearances on the popular radio program "National Barn Dance." Their electrifying performances showcased their exceptional musical prowess and left listeners yearning for more. The sextet's music became synonymous with the Western genre, reaching countless homes across the country.

### **Musical Style and Innovations**

The Strong Land Western Sextet drew inspiration from the traditional Western cowboy songs and ballads but pushed the boundaries of the genre with their innovative arrangements and incorporation of modern influences.

Their music featured intricate harmonies, lightning-fast fiddle playing, and a driving rhythm section, creating a vibrant and energetic sound. They masterfully blended Western elements with jazz, swing, and even elements of country, resulting in a distinctive musical style that set them apart.

## **Influence and Legacy**

The Strong Land Western Sextet's influence on Western music is undeniable. Their groundbreaking approach to the genre paved the way for countless other Western musicians and shaped the sound of the genre for years to come.

Their music inspired generations of musicians, including the likes of Merle Haggard, Marty Robbins, and Waylon Jennings. They played a pivotal role in popularizing Western music beyond its traditional audience, introducing it to a broader mainstream audience.

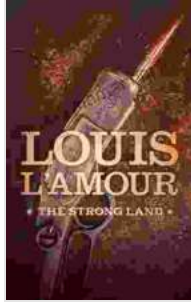
## **Later Years and Disbandment**

Despite their immense success, The Strong Land Western Sextet eventually disbanded in the late 1950s. However, their legacy continued to live on. Members pursued their own solo careers, further contributing to the growth and development of Western music.

In 1980, the sextet reunited for a special performance at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, honoring their enduring impact on the genre.

The Strong Land Western Sextet's contributions to Western music are immeasurable. Their innovative musical style, infectious energy, and timeless appeal made them one of the most influential and beloved ensembles in the history of the genre.

Their legacy continues to inspire and captivate audiences today, as their music remains a testament to the enduring spirit and heritage of Western music.



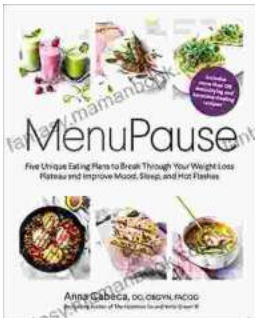
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