



JAZZ AGE

COTTON CLUB

- The Cotton Club was a famous night club in Harlem, New York City that operated during the Prohibition Era that included jazz music.
- Although the club featured many of the greatest African American entertainers of the era, it generally denied admission to blacks.
- Heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson opened the club called Club De Luxe at 142nd Street and Lenox Avenue in Harlem in 1920. Owney Madden, a prominent bootlegger and gangster, took over the club in 1923 and changed its name to the Cotton Club. While the club was closed briefly in 1925 for selling liquor, it reopened without trouble from the police.



BESSIE SMITH

- Bessie Smith (April 15, 1894 – September 26, 1937) was an American blues singer.
- Smith is often referred to as The Empress of the Blues, as she was the most popular female blues singer of the 1920s and 1930s.
- By the early 1920s, Smith had gained prominence in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she was raised. In 1923 she made her recording debut on Columbia, accompanied by pianist Clarence Williams. They recorded "Gulf Coast Blues" and "Down Hearted Blues."
- She is often regarded as one of the greatest singers of her era and, along with Louis Armstrong, a major influence on subsequent jazz vocalists.



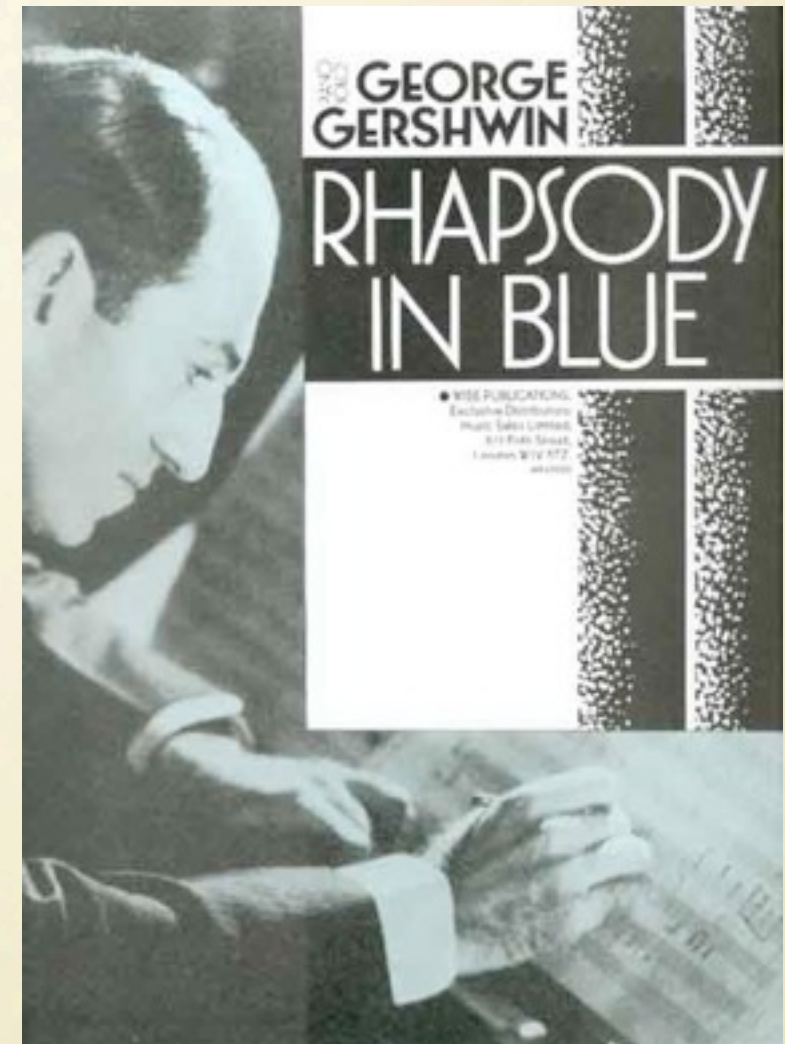
GEORGE GERSHWIN

- George Gershwin (September 26, 1898 – July 11, 1937) was an American composer and pianist.
- He wrote most of his vocal and theatrical works, including more than a dozen Broadway shows, in collaboration with his elder brother, lyricist Ira Gershwin.
- In 1924, George and Ira Gershwin collaborated on a musical comedy *Lady Be Good*, which included such future standards as "Fascinating Rhythm" and "Oh, Lady Be Good!".



RHAPSODY IN BLUE

- Rhapsody in Blue is a musical composition by George Gershwin for solo piano and jazz band written in 1924, which combines elements of classical music with jazz-influenced effects.
- The piece received its premiere in a concert entitled An Experiment in Modern Music, which was held on February 12, 1924, in Aeolian Hall, New York, by Paul Whiteman and his band with Gershwin playing the piano.



DUKE ELLINGTON

- Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (April 29, 1899 – May 24, 1974) was a composer, pianist, and big band leader. Ellington wrote over 1,000 compositions.
- In June 1923, a gig he played in Atlantic City, New Jersey led to a play date at the prestigious Exclusive Club in Harlem, which aided in his early music career.
- This was followed in September 1923 by a move to the Hollywood Club and a four-year engagement, which gave Ellington a solid artistic base.



LOUIS ARMSTRONG

- Louis Daniel Armstrong (August 4, 1901 – July 6, 1971), nicknamed “Satchmo” or “Pops”, was an American jazz trumpeter and singer from New Orleans, Louisiana.
- He came to prominence in the 1920s as an "inventive" cornet and trumpet player, Armstrong was a foundational influence in jazz, shifting the music's focus from collective improvisation to solo performance.
- Louis was the best and most influential hot jazz musician in Chicago in the early 1920s, at a time when Chicago was the center of the jazz universe.

