

The Jazz Age

Jazz music is arguably the first completely American art form. This style of music grew out of African American music of the south. Likely due to the advent of radios, Jazz easily spread across America and many upcoming Jazz musicians to be recognized for their talents. This type of music became so widely popular that the term Jazz Age is used to describe the decade.

Complementary to jazz music, many public dance halls and clubs opened up in cities. Many African American styled dances, such as the shimmy, turkey trot, and bunny hug, became popular in these halls and then adopted by the general public. These types of dances were originally seen by whites in vaudeville shows, but later watched them performed in the clubs.

However, Jazz was not a completely new type music, but came from more experimental and early forms of it, such as blues-ragtime. Composers like Irving Berlin incorporated ragtime into their music. Berlin's hit song of 1911, "Alexander's ragtime Band," which became popular in American and as far away as Austria, popularized the genre and paved the road to the emergence of Jazz .

