

1929 Original Keys: Verse: F, Chorus: Fm

Introduced by Harry Richman in 1930 movie *Puttin' on the Ritz*. Berlin wrote new lyrics for Fred Astaire in the 1946 movie *Blue Skies*

Puttin' on the Ritz

Words and Music by Irving Berlin

Verse: C major 2/25/2005

C E^b7 Dm7 G7 C E^b7 Dm7 G7

1928 Verse: Have you seen the well-to-do, up on Len - ox Av - e - nue?
 1946 Verse: Have you seen the well-to-do, up and down Park Av - e - nue?

E^b F[#]7 Fm7 B^b7 E^b F[#]7 Fm7 B^b7

5 On that fa - mous thor - ough - fare, With their nos - es in the air.
 On that fa - mous thor - ough - fare, With their nos - es in the air.

G G[#]dim Am7 D7 G G[#]dim Am7 D7

9 High hats and co - lored col - lars, White spats and fif - teen dol - lars.
 High hats and Ar - row col - lars, White spats and lots of dol - lars.

Em A7 D7 G7

13 Spend - ing ev - 'ry dime for a won - der - ful time.
 Spend - ing ev - 'ry dime, for a won - der - ful time.

Puttin' on the Ritz was a hit several different times in the last century. The "Ritz" refers to the posh hotel chain built by Cesar Ritz. This song expresses a common theme of several Berlin songs, a couple of society wannabees trying to appear better off than they really are.

This may have been written as early as 1927, and Harry Richman introduced the tune in 1929. Clark Gable sang it in the 1939 film *Idiot's Delight*, which was reintroduced in 1973 film *That's Entertainment*. Most people remember Fred Astaire's incredible dance in the 1948 movie *Easter Parade*. Do you remember the world-wide hit in 1982 by Indonesian Dutch singer Taco Ockerse? And Gene Wilder and Peter Boyle sang it in 1974 in one of my favorite movies. *Young Frankenstein*.

Puttin' on the Ritz has a jazzy syncopated melody sang over a steady swing style accompaniment. The melody is formed from syncopated chord arpeggios and scales. The verse is in a major key (C major), and the chorus is in a minor key (C minor), which provides an intriguing contrast. Irving Berlin rewrote the lyrics in 1946 for Fred Astaire to perform in the musical *Blue Skies*, and it is these later lyrics that most people know. .

Puttin' on the Ritz

Chorus: C minor

17 **Cm** **Cm** **Cm**

1928 Chorus: If you're blue and you don't know where to go to, why don't you
 1946 Chorus: If you're blue and you don't know where to go to, why don't you

20 **Cm** **G7** **Dm7** **G7** **Cm** **Cm/Bb** **Ab7** **G7**

go where Har - lem sits, Put-tin' on the Ritz.
 go where fash - ion sits, Put-tin' on the Ritz.

25 **Cm** **Cm** **Cm**

Spang - led gowns up - on a be - vy of high browns from down the
 Dif - ferent types who wear a day coat, pants with stripes, and cut - a -

28 **Cm** **G7** **Dm7** **G7** **Cm** **Cm/Bb** **Ab7** **G7**

le - vee, all mis - fits. Put-tin' on the Ritz.
 way coat per - fect fits. Put-tin' on the Ritz.

33 **Fm** **C7** **C#7** **C7** **Fm** **GmF#m** **F** **Bb7**

That's where each and ev - 'ry Lu - Lu Belle goes.
 Dressed up like a mil - lion dol - lar troo - per.
 Strol - ling up the a - ven - nue so hap - py.

37 **Eb** **Bb7** **Eb** **Ab** **G**

Ev - 'ry Thurs-day ev - 'ning with her swell beaus, Rub-bing el - bows.
 Try - ing hard to look like Ga - ry Coo - per, Su - per du - per.
 All dressed up just like an Eng - lish chap - pie, ve - ry snap - py.

41 **Cm** **Cm** **Cm** **Cm** **G7**

Come with me and we'll - at-tend their ju - bil - lee and see them spend their last two
 Come let's mix with Rock - e - fel - lers walk with sticks or "um-ber - el - lers" in their

45 **Dm7** **G7** **G7** **Cm** **Ab** **G7** **Cm** **Fm** **C**

bits. Put-tin' on the Ritz.
 mits. Put-tin' on the Ritz.