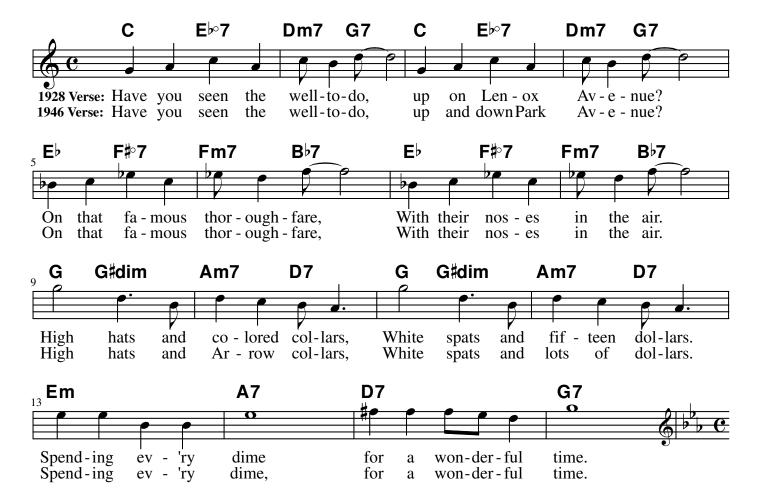
Puttin' on the Ritz

Words and Music by Irving Berlin

Verse: C major 2/25/2005

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 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.

