

The Fredericksburg Jazz Collective

JAZZ-THEMED PARTY IDEAS

Jazz-themed parties generally fall into one of two categories – traditional New Orleans style (birthplace of jazz) or upscale 1920's New York (think “Great Gatsby”). Other styles are possible, of course, which correlate with various eras in the history of jazz, such as the 1930's Cuban/Latin influence, the 1940's swing band era, the 1950's “cool” / Beatnik styles, and the late 1960's free jazz or jazz/rock fusion influences.

Food

New Orleans Style

Boiled crawfish, raw oysters, jambalaya, red beans, dirty rice, seafood gumbo, shrimp etouffee', shrimp or oyster po' boys, blackened fish, bourbon chicken, corn maque choux salad, and pralines, beignets, or bananas Foster for dessert. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuisine_of_New_Orleans for more.

New York Style

Oysters Rockefeller, baked ham, deviled eggs, salmon mousse, Caesar or Waldorf salad, and lemon cakes for dessert. See <http://www.inliterature.net/celebrate/parties-2/2013/05/throwing-a-1920s-great-gatsby-party-the-menu-from-the-book-plus-inspiration.html> for more.

Drinks

- Champagne (especially when oysters are served)
- Bloody Mary (again, especially with oysters)
- Gin Rickey (gin, lime, seltzer)
- Mint Julep (bourbon, mint, sugar, seltzer)
- Sazerac (Absinthe, simple syrup, bitters, rye whiskey)
- Cafe' Brulot (Cognac, Cointreau, brown sugar, cinnamon, clove, & chickory coffee)
- Lemonade

Decorations & Fashion

New Orleans Style (color scheme: purple, green, & gold)

Masks, decorative parasols, beads, urns & ferns, mock streetlamps, three-piece suits, striped shirts & suspenders.

New York Style (color scheme: black, white, & gold)

Anything art deco style, flapper feathers & beads, gangster zoot suits, speakeasy décor, vintage posters.

Music

1920's & 1930's

Ragtime (Scott Joplin, Fats Waller, Sidney Bechet)

Dixieland/Traditional (Louis Armstrong, King Oliver, Pete Fountain, Jelly Roll Morton)

Second Line (Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Kermit Ruffins)

1940's & 1950's

Bebop (Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk, Dizzie Gillespie, Sonny Rollins, early Miles Davis)

Swing (Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller)

Latin/Afro-Cuban (Dizzie Gillespie, Machito, Chano Pozo, Tito Puente, Cal Tjader)

Cool (Dave Brubeck, Chet Baker, mid-period Miles Davis)

1960's & 1970's

Jazz/Rock Fusion (Chick Corea, Weather Report, Herbie Hancock, late-period Miles Davis)

Free Jazz (Ornette Coleman, Eric Dolphy, Sun Ra, Art Ensemble of Chicago, Bill Frisell, John Zorn)

Games & Entertainment

- Charades
- Dominoes
- Conga Line
- Croquet
- Poker / Blackjack table
- Secret Entrance with Password
- Silent Movies
- Murder Mystery

Movies

- *Bird* (1988) starring Forest Whitaker as Charlie Parker, produced/directed by Clint Eastwood
- *Mo' Better Blues* (1990) starring Denzel Washington, directed by Spike Lee
- *Round Midnight* (1986) starring Dexter Gordon, directed by Bertrand Tavernier
- *Sweet and Lowdown* (1999) starring Sean Penn, directed by Woody Allen
- *A Man Called Adam* (1966) starring Sammy Davis, Jr., directed by Leo Penn
- *Keep on Keepin' On* (2014) starring Clark Terry, directed by Alan Hicks
- *Born to be Blue* (2015) starring Ethan Hawke as Chet Baker, produced/directed by Robert Budreau
- *Miles Ahead* (2015) starring Don Cheadle as Miles Davis, directed by Don Cheadle