

The Influence of Jazz on Fashion Design in the 20th Century

(Jazz Fashion)

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Abstract

The researcher clarifies how two practical arts, specifically jazz music and clothing design, were impacted by one another, particularly in the first half of the 20th century. When conducting the study and presenting the findings, the researcher used the descriptive analytical approach. The researcher describes the (jazz) attire that musicians wear at their performances, including hats, ties, shoes, suits, and shirts. The investigator inquires, "Doesn't this style of music impose the creation of free designs that accommodate this free musical form?" The researcher briefly discussed the First World War and its impact on fashion design, as well as some official guidelines for musicians' attire. In the second section of the study, the researcher discusses the history and development of jazz music, pointing out that African Americans created it in the early 20th century by fusing components from African tribal music, Europe, and America. In addition, a description of this music, its components, and its genres, including blues, boogie-woogie, ragtime, and its instruments. Included in this study were the musical qualities of jazz music as well as some of its well-known figures, like jazz pianist Duke Ellington. The researcher came to the conclusion that jazz music and the fashion of the performers' attire had a significant impact on the development of a distinctive fashion trend that gained popularity in American society during the 20th century.

Keywords

Jazz, Jazz clothing, Duke Ellington, Fashion design

Introduction

From prehistoric times to the turn of the twentieth century, the fashion design industry has seen ups and downs in tandem with changes in the political, cultural, and industrial spheres as well as the evolution of societal culture. As fashion changed from the late Victorian era's restrictive patterns in terms of form, occasions, and ornate class to the sixties and beyond's freedom and

individuality, the fashion design industry grew at an unprecedented rate in the twentieth century. Technological advancements, international trade, shifting social and cultural conventions, and the crucial role played by leading designers in forming the fashion scene are the main drivers of this change. Fashion's origins, the Roaring Twenties, the Hollywood-inspired Thirties and Forties, the groundbreaking Sixties and Seventies, and postmodern fashion in the late 20th century will all be covered in this study, along with the most significant designers, social movements, and significant trends that shaped fashion during the 20th century. Fashion started to develop quickly at the turn of the 20th century as a number of social and cultural movements emerged, which had an impact on the apparel design sector.

Before the world event that altered the global historical, cultural, and social system—including customs, traditions, and even religious beliefs—and used the political factor to force them on many societies, clothing in the twentieth century remained formal and outdated. As a result, clothing in the twentieth century became more comfortable and responsive to the needs of the time. The First World War was the most significant occurrence.

Jazz Music

White traffickers have been bringing hundreds of thousands of West African slaves to the United States since the sixteenth century, bringing with them their many cultures, including music. These slaves' musical styles differed depending on their respective cultures. The researcher can think of this music as the popular song of the slaves because it effectively kept the group together. It is well recognized that ensemble performances, brief melodies, and intense speech expression are characteristics of popular music. "Popular singing is characterized by colloquial language, and in it the individual records his position on the problems of life and nature, as well as his intellectual and emotional impressions inherited from the ancestors," according to Dr. Ali Al-Sharman's book, "Music and Singing in Jordan.". According to Al-Sharman and Ali (2019), these songs provide insight into the innermost thoughts and feelings of people. In addition to creating a strong sense of community, singing the same songs in the same way at the same time helped people connect with one another. Music was widely regarded as one of the most important and powerful forms of expression in African culture (Stearns Marchal, W.: 1979, P.4-14).

African Americans were the primary creators of jazz music in the early 20th century, combining elements from American, European, and African tribal music. (Barry Olanow, 1952, p.7). The six-musical instruments, traveling military band played military marches in the New Orleans area before performing music that encouraged dancing and featured a variety of musical instruments, including (drums, cornet, trombone, clarinet, tuba, and piano). Marches served as the inspiration for a lot of early jazz compositions. Blues, boogie-woogie, and ragtime—vocal and instrumental subgenres of jazz music—arose. (Tilford, Brooks, 1984., p. 86–87).

The "jazz" style first appeared in the 1920s. Jazz: What is it? The solution is jazz, a genre of music that sprang out of the blues and ragtime traditions of the African American populations in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Being a coastal city with numerous overlapping cultures and beliefs that influenced jazz music, New Orleans offered a fantastic environment for its development. Historians and the general public alike started referring to this period of time as "The Age of Jazz" because it permeated and influenced every facet of public life. (Google search: <https://www.google.com/search?q>). African musical traditions, European melodies, and American folk music all blended together to create a new musical style that is both distinctive and influential. This music is a mash-up of several cultural music, either intentionally or unintentionally.



(A musical example from jazz songs)

"The elements of jazz music do not differ from the elements of music in general in terms of rhythm, melody and harmony, but they differ in the way jazz composers deal with innovations, which is called improvisation, in addition to blues tunes and accompanying rhythmic and harmonic patterns, which are: rhythm, melody and improvisation Beat - Syncopation". (Amira Abdel Nasser and others.2019, p. 35–36. The genres of jazz can be summed up as Boogie Woogie, ragtime, and blues. Along with biguini, French quartet dances, and brass band marching music, this music also featured group polyphonic improvisation. This was followed by jazz fusion in the late 1960s and early 1970s, smooth jazz in the 1980s, and cool jazz in the late

1940s, which included longer, composed melodic lines and softer, smoother sounds. (Atkins, E. Taylor, Blue Nippon, 2001).

One of the most crucial aspects of jazz music is improvisation, which refers to personal freedom in musical performance. Our study will examine this era's fashion design in more detail later. Since African musical traditions were a major influence in its development, improvisation in this context also refers to the collective participation of a group of people, each of whom expresses their unique personality on their musical instrument. Each member of the jazz band participates in spontaneous musical conversations in which they improvise melodies directly while drawing inspiration from a variety of sources. Response and response, question and answer, and multifaceted rhythms are characteristics of jazz that were common in the jazz improvisation scene at the time and established the unique sound of constructing an intricate discourse. Each performance part reflects the artist's experience and expresses himself, resulting in a renewed novel experience. This dynamic interchange of musical discourse allows for creativity and unique expression. Jazz music's history and styles are revealed in this article: (<https://mdlbeast.com/ar/xp-feed/music-industry/what-is-jazz-music-unveiling-its-history-and-styles>).

Typically, a pianist or other band member plays a pre-composed musical phrase with four, six, or eight musical scales. He then improvises in the spirit of the phrase and passes it on to another musician, who then improvises, and so on, until the melody returns to the first musician and so on, in a systematic order according to the number of musical scales, so that the musical piece concludes with the collective playing in which every member of the musical band participates.

Layers of asynchronous rhythmic intricacy are added to generate harmony, which raises the music's intensity and vitality by generating a sense of surprise and expectation. The twentieth century's music mirrored this, and clothing was created on an individual basis to suit the tastes of each person. After being produced frequently and in large quantities, this style eventually became the standard. To put it another way, a certain design was created based on personal preference, forced into the collection, and disseminated to the general public in order to become a style that was accepted by all.

The researcher poses this question: Doesn't jazz music require a certain type of clothing to accommodate its freedom and movement?

Jazz clothing in the 20th century

The 20th Century's Jazz Fashion Swing is a kind of jazz that draws listeners in with its upbeat beat and soothing, impactful melodies. Swing simultaneously creates a sensation of energy, power, and a means of group communication by encouraging listeners to move their heads, tap their feet, and lose themselves in the beat of the song. For instance, jazz pianist and singer Edward Ellington (actual name Edward Kennedy) was adamant that listening to it creates a positive atmosphere and serves as a distraction from the noise. This upbeat rhythmic music, particularly jazz, also elevates the spirits of both the group and the individual. (Duke Ellington: Artist's Biography). (<https://ar.salvemusic.com.ua/duke-ellington-dyuk-ellington-biografiya-artista>).



(Duke Ellington and the Orchestra)

<https://ar.salvemusic.com.ua/duke-ellington-dyuk-ellington-biografiya-artista>

It was Mark Twain who said ("Clothes make the man"). The point is, does this musical style not force the development of new designs that complement a new kind of free clothes and accommodate this musical form? During this time, unique clothing was created to match the overall aesthetic of the music, which encouraged imitation by the general public. This kind of music also contributed to the development of a fashion trend that mirrored the freedom embodied in the music. The majority of the jazz band members were guys, if not all of them. They wore a uniform, which often consists of a long tie, a white suit, and shoes that are a combination of black and white.

In another moment, we see the jazz musician's choice of a basic pair of pants and a fine shirt, together with the tie that is a mainstay of jazz dress, is a fashion statement. When speaking to a rather messy young actor who struggled to read the lyrics, Sir Charles Birdingley Parker, who was well-known for his meticulous attention to stage dressing and greatly admired for his extensive collection of jazz beards, wittily remarked, "Take care of your ties, and the ties will take care of themselves." Bow ties can also be used as a "thief's" disguise, so if you don't want to be recognized as you leave a performance, you should think twice before wearing them. Getting the "good taste" look, which has been crucial since Lester Young's slacks touched his chin in 1937, is the most frequent conundrum when it comes to wardrobe selection. While a suit is usually a good option, picking the appropriate shirt is essential. Only singers wore double-breasted shirts throughout that era of jazz history, but if you must, make sure the collar lapels are as long as they are wide.

“Changes in women’s fashion in the 1920s were perfectly buoyed by the entry of jazz in the musical realm. Women’s fashion needed a rebellious source of inspiration. Our fashion choices needed a boost that would give us the chance to make more significant changes. And adding to the advent of new technology, fashion designers and inspirational women of yore picked this time as the perfect opportunity. This was when flapper girls began to pop up on the scene. And the fashion icons started promoting the style with fervor”.



(<https://www.wardrobeshop.com/blogs/flapper-era/how-jazz-influenced-fashion-in-the-1920s>)

According to a jazz dress code, a musician's suit should not be shinier than his brass instrument. The musician's talent level is directly correlated with the height of their pants. More seasoned musicians ride their pants just above the hip, whereas young singers and fresh jazz grads wear their pants closer to the hip. The height of a musician's slacks above the waist corresponds to the height of their shoes. Another general guideline for jazz attire is to pair shoes with a standard or slightly higher heel with pants that fall over the hips; however, if the pants fall below the ribs, a black, shiny, undone lace-up shoe is necessary. Anything above this calls for a wear-resistant, non-slip brogue.

Jazz and music have a slight positive impact on more than just women's fashion. Many people were grateful for the significant change in men's fashion.

Typically, men's attire consists of formal, fitting suits. Additionally, there weren't many colors in men's suits because the majority favored black, navy, grey, and blue as their themes. That ended in the 1920s. Men's clothing grew more casual, playful, and, dare I say it, baggier. Vibrant hues began to gain popularity, and casual attire gained traction. Also, the cuts started to change shape, the materials started to look a little more contemporary, and the fashion helped make the zoot suit popular in the 1940s. Although many people continued to gravitate toward more relaxed collared shirts and colorful shirts for daily wear, even though they still donned a sharp black suit for formal occasions.



(<https://www.wardrobeshop.com/blogs/flapper-era/how-jazz-influenced-fashion-in-the-1920s>)

The zoot suit is still occasionally worn to formal occasions, and it's a good idea to keep in mind that wearing one if you are taller than 5 feet 9 inches is still prohibited in several countries. Playing a brass instrument while wearing such a suit is such a fashion faux pas that many musicians would not perform with you and you might be made fun of for a long time. Additionally, it is mandatory to wear a helmet whenever you wear shorts of any kind. (Clay Rider, 2012–2024).

Fashion Accessories Design (Hat and Beard)

The rule is that there are no regulations when it comes to headgear. Berets were common among jazz musicians, but there was also a type of hat that was worn with a tie. Jazz players often used flat caps, which were required to be worn with shirt and slacks that had suspenders.

Beret Hat

The style of sunglasses used by jazz performers became quite popular among the locals on the West Coast of the United States, where jazz music started to spread quickly. Certain etiquette rules must be followed, such as the prohibition against nonsmokers and people who are incapable of playing or singing jazz wearing glasses in enclosed areas, the requirement that one of the musicians be in a rotating position during the musical performance, and the prohibition against wearing sunglasses with high-heeled shoes or suits.



(Beret Hat)

Regarding jeans, there was no particular style, but during the jazz era, these pants were completely unpopular. However, it was specifically used for hunting in the cabins, home maintenance, gardening, and some types of gaming. (An essay from the Jazz Etiquette series, "Clay Ryder, 2012-2024 Jazz Etiquette," jazzstreams.org)



<https://www.aljazeera.net/midan/art/music>

Not only did jazz become widely popular in the 20th century, but it was also a result of the whispers that preceded and accompanied the loud cries that Black Americans' voices raised during their movement to seek their civil rights. Slaves were impacted by the roving brass bands that performed at funerals and festivals as well as the church hymns, they heard on Sundays. Along with drums, trumpets, trombones, and clarinets, jazz borrowed its primary instruments

from the latter. Women entered the workforce after World War I ended and many males died in the conflict. They removed their suffocating Victorian corsets and chopped off their long hair that did not fit the factory machinery. They were granted the right to vote for the first time in August 1920. They danced to jazz music at night in the same clubs as men. They started wearing short skirts for the first time since long dresses did not fit the fast-paced rhythm of jazz. Jazz also embodied its free spirit through improvisation, which transformed classical music and made it popular among young people who disapproved of established customs. Jazz's most significant performers and innovators, including Duke Ellington, Buddy Bolden, and Louis Armstrong, came into the world in the 1920s.

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