

Puttin' On The Ritz

Irving Berlin

Performed by Peter Skellern

"Puttin' on the Ritz" is a popular song written and published in [1929](#) by [Irving Berlin](#) and introduced by [Harry Richman](#) in the musical film [Puttin' on the Ritz](#) (1930). The title derives from the [slang](#) expression "putting on the Ritz," meaning to dress very fashionably. The expression was inspired by the swanky [Ritz Hotel](#) . (Wikipedia)

Have you seen the well-to-do
Up on Lennox Avenue
On that famous thoroughfare
With their noses in the air

High hats and colored collars
White spats and fifteen dollars
Spending every dime
For a wonderful time

*If you're blue
And you don't know where to go to
Why don't you go where Harlem sits
Puttin' on the Ritz*

*Spangled gowns upon the bevy of
High browns from down the levy
All misfits
Puttin' on the Ritz*

That's where each and every lulu-belle goes
Every Thursday evening with her swell beaux
Rubbing elbows

Oh come with me and we'll attend their jubilee
And see them spend their last two bits
Puttin' on the Ritz

Reuben treats his sweetie to
Highbrow drinks and oyster stew
Though he knows quite well his stash
Means six days on warmed-up hash

High spots today they'll borrow
Dry spots will come tomorrow
But nobody cares
For now they're all millionaires

[chorus]