As American culture adapted, African American culture was coming of age!

After decades of oppression, black culture was going mainstream seeded in a background of slavery and prejudice, black music and art gave African Americans an identity

And that led to...
The rebirth of black culture begins with the Great Migration. Former slaves and poor Southern blacks moved to northern cities during WWI. By 1920, 5 million blacks (40% of black Americans) lived in cities. They moved for cheap factory jobs, to escape Jim Crow South. Still, racial tensions rose in cities b/w whites and blacks. Harlem, NY became a central capital for northern blacks w/ a huge Af. Amer. population. Harlem was the heart of the rebirth.
By 1920, two distinctly different groups had formed in civil rights

**NAACP**
Sought equality among races thru legislation & militancy
James Weldon Johnson & W.E.B. Du Bois preached open protest of discrimination

**UNIA** (UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOC.)
Founded by Marcus Garvey, it focused on a sep. black society
Garvey opened offices in poor ghettos to help poor blacks, sign up members
its “Back to Africa” movement called for blacks to unify away from whites
The Harlem Renaissance blossomed in music & literature. Black writers, artists, & musicians celebrated black culture in their work.

Writers Langston Hughes & Zora Neale Hurston were tops. Hughes' poems moved to a jazz tempo & defiantly spoke about black struggles. Hurston wrote emotional books about blacks overcoming Jim Crow with strength.

But most of all, jazz & rhythm and blues music came forth. Black artists performed soulful songs about black life in clubs and "gin joints."
WHITES FLOCKED TO BLACK NIGHT CLUBS TO HEAR THE NEW MUSICAL SENSATION: JAZZ

JAZZ BECAME THE AMERICAN MUSICAL ART FORM!

"DUKE" ELLINGTON

THE COTTON CLUB (HARLEM, NY)

LOUIS ARMSTRONG  BESSIE SMITH

A MUSICAL REVOLUTION

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