

# The 2002 Rex Procession

## “Royal Jazz”

February 2, 2002 New Orleans, Louisiana

This year’s Rex parade, designed by Henri Schindler, responds to the theme “Royal Jazz”. New Orleans is known far and wide as “the birthplace of jazz”, and the floats in this year’s parade honor the composers and performers (Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Clarence Williams and others) and the places (Storyville, West End, Bucktown, Mahogany Hall) associated with the birth of jazz, especially during the first two decades of the last century. Most of the floats take the colorful titles and images of jazz songs of that period, many familiar to all and some known only to those who study that rich and creative time in New Orleans.

Sources: Theme notes from Henri Schindler; Bruce Boyd Raeburn, Curator, Hogan Jazz Archive, Tulane University; Redhotjazz.com, Jazz Roots, and other online jazz archives.

**Float #1 Rex, King of Carnival, Monarch of Merriment**

**Float #2 His Majesty’s Bandwagon**

**Float #3 The King’s Jesters**

**Float #4 The Boeuf Gras**

**Float #5 Title Float “Royal Jazz”**

**Float #6 “West End Blues”** Louis Armstrong’s masterwork 1928 recording of King Oliver’s tune. The New Orleans lakefront (West End, Bucktown, Milneburg) was the home of many jazz clubs.

**Float #7 “Billy Goat Stomp”** Jelly Roll Morton and the Red Hot Peppers recorded this song in 1927, complete with “goatish” sound effects.

**Float #8 “When the Saints Go Marching In”** Based on an old spiritual first published in 1895, now a favorite from jazz funerals to football games.

**Float #9 “Red Hot Peppers”** This was both a 1928 Jelly Roll Morton tune and also the name of Morton’s jazz band.

**Float #10 “Bucktown Blues”** A 1923 Jelly Roll Morton recording, a tribute to the dance halls and clubs of Bucktown, now better known for its seafood.

**Float #11 “Skeleton Jangle”** An Original Dixieland Jazz Band tune. Another favorite: “Ain’t No Sin To Take Off Your Skin and Dance Around in Your Bones.”

**Float #12 “Tiger Rag”** Recorded in 1918 by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band. Nick LaRocca claimed authorship, but Jelly Roll Morton said it was an old French quadrille. Still a big favorite, especially in Baton Rouge.

**Float #13 “Way Down Yonder in New Orleans”** Henry Creamer and Turner Layton wrote this for the musical revue “Spice of 1922,” recorded later by Blossom Sealey.

**Float #14 Streetcar Named Desire**

**Float #15 “Mahogany Hall Stomp”** Lulu White ran Mahogany Hall, one of Storyville’s grandest “sporting houses,” where Kid Ory’s band played and E. Bellocq took pictures. Her nephew, Spencer Williams, wrote this song.

**Float #16 “Bow Wow Blues”** Recorded in 1921 by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band.

**Float #17 “Wildcat Blues”** Recorded in 1923 by Clarence Williams’ Blue Five, this song featured early work by the great clarinetist, Sidney Bechet.

**Float #18 “White Ghost Shivers”** The New Orleans Owls recorded this song in 1926. The Owls played at the Suburban Gardens Club in Jefferson Parish and at The Cave in the Grunewald Hotel.

**Float #19 “Hyena Stomp”** Jelly Roll Morton’s 1927 recording features hysterical laughter at appropriately timed points in the music.

**Float #20 "When It's Sleepy Time Down South"** Words by Clarence Muse, an African-American actor of the time. This was one of Louis Armstrong's favorite tunes.

**Float #21 "Love Song of the Nile"** Composed by MGM's Brown and Freed, recorded by New Orleans husband and wife team De De and Billie Pierce. De De was a popular blind cornetist.

**Float #22 "Big Fat Ham"** A 1924 Jelly Roll Morton tune, possibly inspired by a somewhat risqué Storyville tradition. Ask Mr. Schindler.

**Float #23 "In My Harem"** A 1913 Irving Berlin tune inspired this float. It has been revived by New Orleans' own New Leviathan Oriental Foxtrot Orchestra.

**Float #24 "Frog Leg Rag"** An old rag by James Scott, played by many bands and ensembles in the twenties.

**Float #25 "Hindustan"** Oliver Wallace and Harold Weeks wrote this song in 1918, when the what we now know as India was called "Hindustan"--land of the Hindus.

**Float #26 "Alligator Crawl"** This jazz standard was recorded in 1927 by Louis Armstrong and His Hot Seven. It may have been inspired by the movements of parading "second liners."