

# South Plainfield Public Library

Presents

## Runnin' Wild: Harlem, the Interwar Years, & the Music that Transformed a Nation

The luster of twentieth-century America was seductive. The age of modernity was ushered in by the automobile, motion picture, radio, and transatlantic flight. The mores of the Victorian era were crushed by a Prohibition-induced defiance. The 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution of the United States bestowed a new freedom upon the women of the country; all things seemed possible. And jazz, with its complex contradictions and tensions, was an aural manifestation of it all. This was most evident in a northern section of Manhattan, New York – the neighborhood of Harlem.



*Runnin' Wild*, unlike most studies of the Harlem Renaissance in which music is treated peripherally and in subordination to literary advances, examines how jazz of the period served as a catalyst for the African American community, bolstered the morale of the country, and elucidated the need for social equity.

It will also be discussed how the leaders of the Harlem Renaissance, such as James Weldon Johnson, W.E.B. DuBois, and Alain Locke, privileged a music that championed an elitist, Eurocentric aesthetic and one that was not true to the spirit or experience of the African American population.

**OCTOBER 5 2PM**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**