



Vocabulary

chord	a group of notes played together, often in triads (1st, 3rd, and 5th notes of a scale).
arpeggio	playing the notes of a chord one after another (1st, 3rd, and 5th).
improvisation	making up music as you go, often within a scale or rhythm.
tempo	the speed of the music (e.g. Largo = slowly, Andante = walking pace, Allegro = quickly)
swing rhythm	a rhythm where pairs of quavers are played in a long-short pattern.
Call and response	musical conversation where one phrase (call) is answered by another (response)

The blues is a type of American music that became popular in the early 1900s. It is closely related to jazz. Rather than simply tell a story, blues singers express their feelings. These feelings are often sad.

Often the blues singer sings the first part of a line of music. The instruments then repeat or "answer" the part the singer sang. Blues performers make up parts of the music while performing it, within certain rules. This is known as improvisation.

In the first half of the 1900s many Black people moved from country areas in the South to cities in the North. They brought the blues with them.

Musicians in Chicago played the biggest role in developing urban, or city, blues.

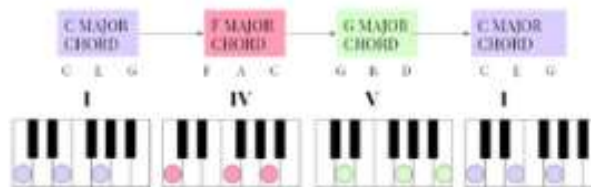
Famous blues performers include Riley "B.B." King, John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, and Buddy Guy.



12 Bar Blues Structure

C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
G	F	C	G

THE BLUES C SCALE



The 12-bar blues is a simple song structure made of 12 sections, or "bars," that repeats, like a musical story told in three parts, each with four bars. It uses three main chords, called I, IV, and V, which are the first, fourth, and fifth notes of a musical scale. The first four bars use the I chord, the next four bars use the IV and I chords, and the final four bars use the V, IV, and I chords to bring the song back to the beginning.

Musical Symbols

