

The Blues

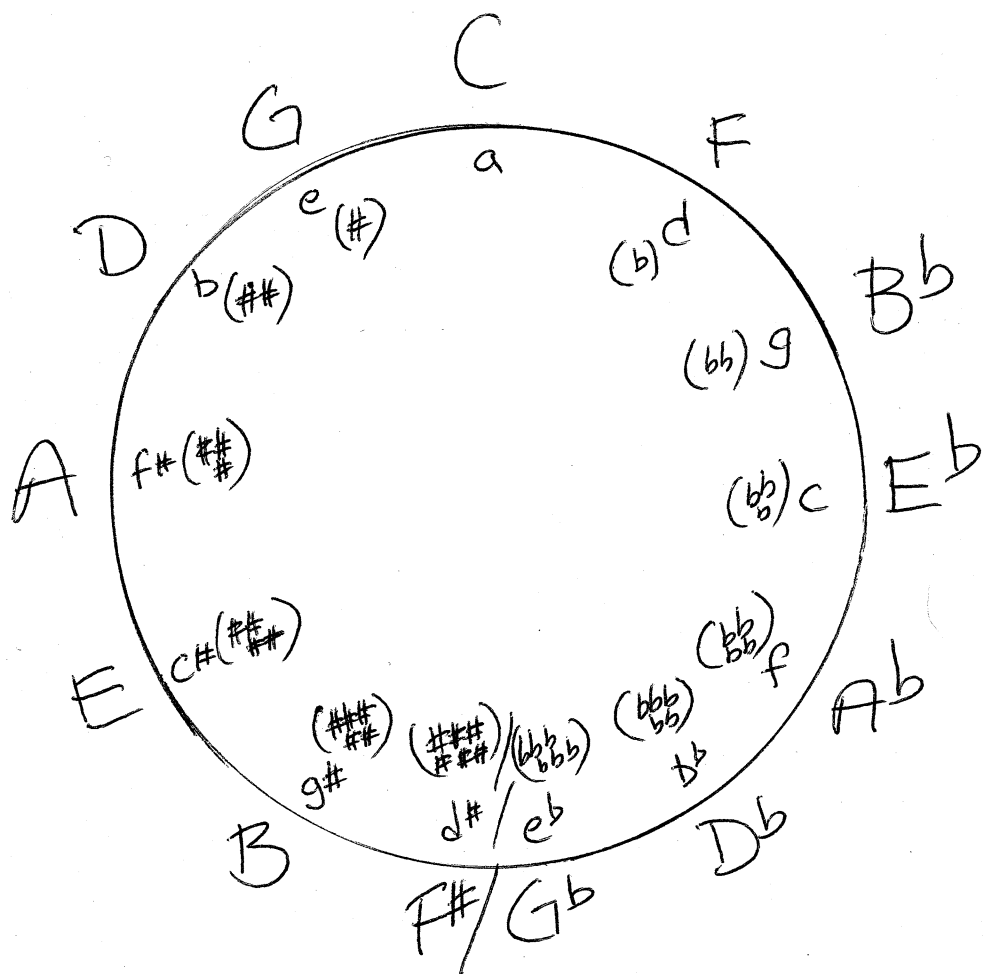
by Hugh Fraser

The Blues derives its name from the colour associated with a down feeling or sadness. The majesty of the blues is the fact that all humans identify with this feeling, and the musical representation of it gives dignity and a shared voice for all of us to realize that we are not alone, and indeed, we can have our spirits uplifted by the communal experience of listening to or playing "The Blues".

The creators of what we know as "The Blues" are the Afro-American residents of the Southern States. Their combination of African song containing quarter tones (this is the trademark of the blues scale flat 3rd and flat 5th played against the major 3rd and perfect 5th of the seventh chords of a standard blues, approximating quarter tones) and European harmony derived from hymn tunes containing the I-IV-V functions of harmony that slaves were forced to participate in while continuing their traditional music in secret. What is interesting is that in the face of one of the worst periods of human persecution through slavery, the victims created a new art form while gaining solace in a musical form that universally was understood.

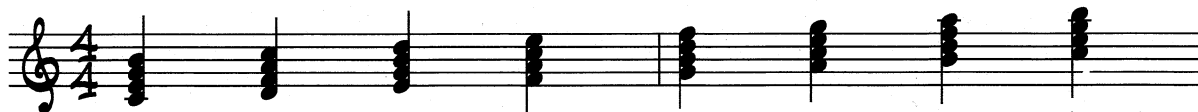
The standard form or structure of the blues is 12 bars long with a I7 chord for 4 bars; IV7 chord for 2 bars; I7 for 2 bars; V7 for 2 bars; I7 for one and V7 for I if repeating back to the beginning. Every chord is based on the mixolydian scale (explore this in The Jazz Theory Book by Mark Levine) and contains the root, third, fifth and flat seventh. The scale over a true blues, however, is the blues scale, not the obvious mixolydian scale on each chord. The Blues scale is the 1:b3:4:b5:5: and b7. There are two ways to improvise melodically on "a Blues". One can play a traditional blues improvisation by using the blues scale (Oscar Peterson's music is a great example of how one can apply the blues scale to any composition of chord structure and immediately make even the most major, happy tune into a blues); or one can play the changes.

The Circle of Fifths



MODES OF THE MAJOR SCALE

CMAJ⁷ Dm7 Em7 FMAJ⁷ G⁷ Am7 Bm7-5 CMAJ⁷



IONIAN MODE

CMAJ⁷



DORIAN MODE

Dm7



PHRYGIAN MODE

Em7



LYDIAN MODE

FMAJ⁷



MIXOLYDIAN MODE

G⁷



AEOLIAN MODE

Am7



LOCRIAN MODE

Bm7-5



CONCERT KEY

LIBATION BLUES

ROY REYNOLDS

The musical score for "Libation Blues" is written in Concert Key (B-flat major) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music.

Staff 1: The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat major), and a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a whole rest, with a B^b7 chord symbol above it. The subsequent measures contain eighth and quarter notes, mostly moving in a descending or stepwise fashion.

Staff 2: The second staff continues the melody. It starts with a E^b7 chord symbol above the first measure. The fifth measure of this staff has a B^b7 chord symbol above it. The staff includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and quarter notes, and rests.

Staff 3: The third staff begins with a C^b7 chord symbol above the first measure. The first four measures of this staff contain triplets of eighth notes, indicated by a "3" below each group. The fifth measure has an F^7 chord symbol above it. The sixth measure has a B^b7 chord symbol above it. The seventh and eighth measures have F^7 chord symbols above them. The staff concludes with a double bar line.

CONCERT KEY

BLUE MONK

THELONIOUS MONK

The musical score for "Blue Monk" is written in concert key (B-flat major / D-flat minor) and common time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1 through 5, with chords Bb7, Eb7, Bb7, F7, and Bb7 Bb7 Bb7. The second staff contains measures 6 through 10, with chords Eb7, Eb DIM7, Bb7, F7, and Bb7. The third staff contains measures 11 through 15, with chords F7, F7, Eb7, Bb7, F7, Bb7, and F7. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as accidentals and a key signature of two flats.

Chords and measures shown in the score:

- Staff 1: Bb7, Eb7, Bb7, F7, Bb7 Bb7 Bb7
- Staff 2: Eb7, Eb DIM7, Bb7, F7, Bb7
- Staff 3: F7, F7, Eb7, Bb7, F7, Bb7, F7

UP FOR IT

HUGH FRASER

UNISON MELODY

4

8

11

14

15

19

SOLOS ON F BLUES

D.C. AL CODA
AFTER SOLOS

Chords: $\oplus$ G $\flat$ 7, C $\flat$ 7, F $\flat$ 7, B $\flat$ 7, E $\flat$ M7, A $\flat$ 7, F7(-9), F7(-9)/B, F7(-9), F7(-9)/B, F7(-9), F7(-9)/B, F7(-9), F7(-9)/B, F7(-9), F7(-9)/B, F7(-9), F7(-9)/B.

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(MED.)

WEST COAST BLUES

-JOHN L. (WES) MONTGOMERY

Handwritten musical score for "West Coast Blues" by John L. (Wes) Montgomery. The score is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major (two flats). The tempo is marked (MED.).

The score consists of several staves of music, with handwritten chord changes and a "SOLOS" section indicated by a box. The chords are written above the staff lines.

Chord Progression:

- Staff 1: B $\flat$ 7, A $\flat$ 7
- Staff 2: B $\flat$ 7, B-7, E7, E $\flat$ 7
- Staff 3: B $\flat$ 7, F7, E $\flat$ 7
- Staff 4: B $\flat$ 7
- Staff 5: B $\flat$ 7, A $\flat$ 7, B $\flat$ 7
- Staff 6: B-7, E7, E $\flat$ 7, E $\flat$ -7, A $\flat$ 7
- Staff 7: D-7, G7, C $\sharp$ -7, F $\sharp$ 7, C-7
- Staff 8: C-7, F7, B $\flat$ 6, D $\flat$ 7, G $\flat$ 6, F7

The "SOLOS" section is marked with a box and includes a series of slanted lines indicating improvisation.

CONCERT KEY

MAMBO INFLUENCIADO

CHUCHO VALDEZ

Chord progression for the first system:

Dm7 Bm7-5 Em7-5 A^{7(b9)} Dm7 Am7-5 D^{7(b9)}

Chord progression for the second system:

Gm7 Gm7/F Em7-5 A^{7(b9)} Dm7 Cm7 F⁷

Chord progression for the third system:

B^bMAJ⁷ Em7-5 A^{7ALT} Dm7 Bm7-5 Em7-5 A^{7(b9)}

CONCERT KEY

BEMSHA SWING

THELONIOUS MONIK

Handwritten musical score for "BEMSHA SWING" by Thelonious Monik. The score is written in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major (two flats), and consists of four staves of music. The notation includes various chords and melodic lines.

Staff 1: Chords: F7, Eb7, Db7, C7ALT, F7, C7(#9). Measure numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Staff 2: Chords: F7, Eb7, Db7, C7ALT, F7, Cm7, F7. Measure numbers: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

Staff 3: Chords: Bb7, Ab7, Gb7, F7, Bb7, Gm7, C7(#9). Measure numbers: 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.

Staff 4: Chords: F7, Eb7, Db7, C7ALT, F7, C7(#9). Measure numbers: 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24.

(MED. SWING)

SOLAR

-NILES DAVIS

C- G-7

C7 Fmaj7

F-7 Bb7 Ebmaj7

Eb-7 Ab7 Dbmaj7 D-7b5 G7b9

GOODBYE PORK PIE HAT

CHARLES MINGUS

Ballad (♩ = ca. 56)

mf

Chords: Eb7(#9) B9(13) Emaj9 A7(#11) Db9sus B9(13) Db7sus Eb7 Abm11 B7(13) Fm7b5 Bb7#5(#9) C13(#11) F7(13) B7 Emaj7 A7(13) Ab7 Bb7 Db7 Eb7(#9) B7 Emaj7(#11) A7(#11)

after repeat

Solos

Chords: Ebm7 Abm7 Ebm7 Abm7 Ebm7 Abm7 Ebm7 A7#5 Abm7 B7 Bb7#5 Ebm7 Abm7 Ebm7 Ab7 Cm7b5 F7#5(#9) F#m7 B7(Bb7) Ebm7 Ab7 Ebm7 Ab7 Ebm7 B7 Ebm7 B7 Abm7 B7 Bb7#5 Ebm7 Ab7 Ebm7 Ab7 Cm7b5 F7 F#m7 B7(Bb7) Ebm7 Ab7 Ebm7 Ab7

Coda

Chords: Emaj7(#11) A7(#11) Ebm Emaj7 Ebm

Med. Ballad Sing Me Softly of the Blues

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Carla Bley

(Intro)

F⁷ B⁷ F⁷ E⁹_{SUS} E⁷

A

A⁷ D⁷ A⁷ D⁷

C⁷ G^{b7(b5)} F⁷ B⁷ F⁷ E⁹_{SUS} E⁷

A⁷ D⁷ D^{b7} B⁷ F⁷ E⁷ B^{b7}

(Ending)

A⁷ G⁷ F⁷ E⁷ A⁷ D⁷ B⁷ B^{b7} A⁷

Solo on **A**; After solos, play head to Ending

(rit.)

Notes in parentheses in bar 1 of letter A are the end of the head (start of solos).