

The Blues: An Interactive and Multidisciplinary Approach for the General Music Classroom
 2020 WVMEA Conference: Jeff Wolfe, Marshall University

Rhythmic improvisation and call and response examples:

F minor pentatonic scale (5th mode of the pentatonic scale) for melodic improvisation and call and response:

Call and response examples:

Basic form of the blues and basic singing example (guide tones):

Basic form of the blues and singing example that adds more movement (1-2-3 and 5-6-b7):

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the basic form of the blues. The first staff has four measures, each with a chord of F7 and a fingering of 1. The second staff has four measures with chords of Bb7, Bb7, F7, and F7, with fingerings of IV, IV, I, and I respectively. The third staff has four measures with chords of C7, Bb7, F7, and F7, with fingerings of V, IV, I, and I respectively.

Advanced singing example of the basic jazz form of the blues:

The image shows three staves of musical notation for an advanced singing example of the basic jazz form of the blues. The first staff has four measures with chords of F7, Bb7, F7, and F7, and fingerings of I, IV, I, and I. The second staff has four measures with chords of Bb7, Bb7, F7, and D7, and fingerings of IV, IV, I, and VI. The third staff has six measures with chords of G-7, C7, F7, D7, G-7, and C7, and fingerings of II, V, I, VI, II, and V.

Listening examples (Cultural Influence)

- Blind Lemon Jefferson - "Rambler Blues"
- Bessie Smith - "Lost Your Head Blues"
- Louis Armstrong - "West End Blues"
- Duke Ellington - "Black and Tan Fantasy"
- William Grant Still - "Afro-American Symphony"
- Count Basie - "One O'clock Jump" (1937 version)
- Charlie Parker - "Billie's Bounce"
- Louis Jordan - "Caldonia"
- Little Richard - "Long Tall Sally"
- Mahalia Jackson - "Trouble of the World"
- Johnny Cash - "Orange Blossom Special"
- James Brown - "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag"
- Rolling Stones - "You Gotta Move"
- Led Zeppelin - "Bring It On Home"