

Knowledge Organiser

HT3 What musical ingredients make up traditional Blues Music?

What are we learning about?:

- A. Where did Blues Music originate?
- B. What textural layers appear in a Blues song?
- C. Keywords
- D. How do you compose stylistic blues lyrics?
- E. What makes an effective improvisation?
- F. How do we manage our time during a group rehearsal?

Keywords for this Half Term

12 Bar Blues
Swung Rhythms
Primary Chords
Blues Scale
Major
Minor

A: Where did Blues Music originate?

Blues is a music genre and musical form which originated in the Deep South of the United States around the 1860s by African-Americans from roots in African-American work songs and spirituals.

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

B: What textural layers appear in a Blues song?

Melody – The tune that is often sang
Improvisation – Creating Music on the spot
Chords – 12 Bar Blues
Walking Bass Line – Ascending and Descending Bass Line

C: Keywords

12 Bar Blues	A Chord Progression that lasts for 12 Bars including 3 Chords C C C C F F C C G F C C
Swung Rhythms	When quavers are not played strictly
Primary Chords	I, IV and V Chords in a scale
Blues Scale	A specific scale used in Blues / Jazz
Major	Bright or Happy sound
Minor	Dark and Sad sound

D: How do you compose stylistic blues lyrics?

Blues songs are short - usually having three lines of verse, the second being a repeat of the first. Their subjects include slavery and eventual freedom, drugs, unemployment, poverty, unhappiness and unrequited love – hence the associations of a “blues” sound with unhappiness.

E: What makes an effective improvisation?

Step 1: C Eb

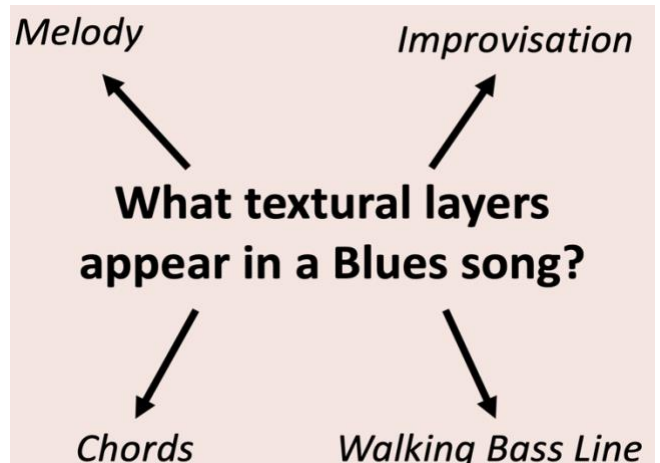
Step 2: C Eb F

Step 3: C Eb F G

Step 4: C Eb F G Bb

F: How do we manage our time during a group rehearsal?

1. Assign your roles
2. Who is counting in?
3. Practice your part individually
4. Piece the performance together
5. Have you got a clear start, middle and end?
6. Stop if you think anything needs changing or if you are out of time/tune



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F	F	[]	C
[]	F	C	[]

B: What textural layers appear in a Blues song?

[] – The tune that is often sang
 Improvisation – []
 [] – 12 Bar Blues
 Walking Bass Line – Ascending and [] Bass Line

C: Keywords

[]	A Chord Progression that lasts for [] Bars including 3 Chords C C C C F F C C G F C C
[]	When quavers are not played strictly
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What textural layers appear in a Blues song?

Chords