

# Year 8 – Blues Music

Blues Music



Theme and Variations



Just Play 3



Minimalism



Just Play 4



World Music

In this unit, you will learn about the history of 'Blues' music and learn how this then had an influence on music today. You will learn how to play the 12-bar blues chord sequence on the keyboards and ukulele's whilst learning about the importance of chords, bass lines and improvisation.

The blues is a form of music that started in the United States during the start of the 20th century. It was started by former African slaves from spirituals, praise songs, and chants, the music spoke of their sadness. The first blues songs were called Delta blues. These songs came from the area near the mouth of the Mississippi River. Blues music developed and were played in juke joints and bars across America. Blues music has heavily influenced music today with musicians and artists using key themes such as the 12-bar blues in their music.

## Key Features

## 12-bar Blues Chord Sequence

C / / /	C / / /	C / / /	C / / /
F / / /	F / / /	C / / /	C / / /
G / / /	F / / /	C / / /	C / / /

## Key Skills

**Chord Sequence:** A chord sequence is a set of chords that you will need to play fluently. The blues sequence is made up of 12 chords using C, F and G.

**Tempo and Timing:** How fast or slow the music is. Can you remain in time with everybody else when performing the 12-bar blues?

**Improvisation:** Using the notes of each chord, you will have a go at 'making up music on the spot'. Improvisation is a common feature of blues music with there being a section in most musical pieces that is often just made up.

## Walking bassline

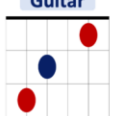
**Walking Bass line:** You will need to be able to play the walking bass line that is used in blues music. This is where they take notes from each chord and create a bass line that moves up and down in a walking motion. You will attempt to play both the chord sequence and the bass line together at the same time.




		Performing	What do you need to work towards?	Improvising	Appreciating	
Year 8 Blues Music	Content	Musical Skills Chord accuracy, walking bass line, chord sequence, playing of chords.	Performance and Interpretative Skills facial expression, interaction with and response to other performers, musicality, projection, stage presence.	Musical Skills Using the correct notes from the key signature to make up a melody.	Use of appropriate music terminology and/or subject specific language	Critically appreciate own music and the work of others through describing, analysing, interpreting, evaluating, and reflecting
	Mastery	I can play a full chord progression without mistakes and play the walking bass line together.	I am able to perform in class performances using these skills in an effective manner	I can improvise using many notes fluently.	I am able to use music vocabulary to produce an effective response	I am able to appreciate own music & the work of others using these skills to produce an effective response
	Secured	I can swap between 3 chords fluently and play the bass line separately.	I am able to perform in class performances in songs using these skills in a sound manner.	I can improvise using 3 or more notes of the chord.	I am able to use music vocabulary to produce a sound response	I am able to appreciate own music & the work of others using these skills to produce a sound response
	Developing	I can swap between 2 chords fluently	I am able to perform in class performances in songs using these skills in a limited way.	I can improvise using 2 or more of the notes of the chord.	I am able to use music vocabulary to produce a limited response	I am able to appreciate own music & the work of others using these skills to produce a limited response

**C**

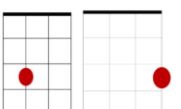
Guitar



Keys




Bass Ukulele




**F**

Guitar

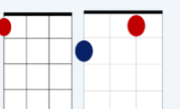
1<sup>ST</sup> FRET



Keys




Bass Ukulele




**G**

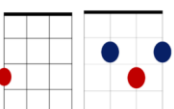
Guitar



Keys



Bass Ukulele





Muddy Waters



B.B King



Nina Simone

Key Terms 1—Instruments		Key Terms 2—Music Theory	
<b>Strings</b>	A Double Bass or Bass Guitar is used to play the Bass Line. Guitar plays chords and melodies	<b>Walking Bass</b>	The bass part in the Blues 'walks' up the notes of a chord creating a 'walking bass' part.
<b>Woodwind</b>	Saxophones are sometimes used for melody.	<b>12-Bar Blues</b>	Traditional style of music using 3 chords over a 12-bar cycle
<b>Brass</b>	The Trumpet is often used for melody.	<b>Syncopation</b>	When music is played on the off beat (i.e. not played on the main beat of the bar). This creates a disjointed feel.
<b>Percussion</b>	The Drum kit is used to strengthen the rhythm of a blues song.	<b>Improvisation</b>	Music that is made up on the spot by a performer, often based on a given chord progression or set of notes.
<b>Voices</b>	Soprano/Alto/Tenor/Bass—any kind of voice can sing the blues	<b>Swing Rhythm</b>	The first bit of the beat is longer as it steals time from the second bit to give the music a swinging feel.
<b>Keyboards</b>	The Piano is often used to play the chords bass line and/or melody.		

