

# Blues Composition

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Write a standard 12-bar blues.

## On your lead sheet

Write the melody on a single, unaccompanied treble staff, and write chord symbols above it.

### Key

We will read these in class. **For simplicity's sake, please write in the key of (concert) Bb major.**

### Motive and rhythm

- Your melody should be in aab format. You may vary the repetition of the a phrase (aa'b).
- You should leave gaps in your melody in which another instrument could “respond” to your “call.” (Note that you do not actually write out the responses.)

### Harmony

- Use a standard 12-bar blues progression or a standard variation of it.
  - Show these harmonies by writing appropriate chord symbols above the staff, as on a typical lead sheet.
- If you make unusual changes to the 12-bar blues, please acknowledge and explain them in your submission; otherwise, these changes may be interpreted as mistakes.

## On your voicing example

To demonstrate fluency in chord symbols and basic jazz voice leading, provide a basic realization of your chord symbols for piano, as follows:

- Use simple whole notes (or similar rhythmic values)—rhythm is not being assessed here.
- The left hand (bass staff) should only have one note at a time—the chord root.
- The right hand (treble staff) should only have two notes at a time—the chord third and seventh.
- In the right hand, maintain entirely stepwise voice leading between adjacent chords.

### Submission

Your complete submission will include two files:

- a .pdf lead sheet
- a .pdf voicing example

### Grading

You will be evaluated on:

- use of an aab phrase structure with call-and-response gaps
- effective melodic pitch content
- use of standard harmony
- interpretation of chord symbols
- idiomatic voice leading