

Blues Composition

Audio option

Name: _____

Write a standard 12-bar blues. Record yourself performing your blues melody (sung or on an instrument), and include a harmonic accompaniment (e.g., piano or guitar).

Key

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

Audio

• Melody

- Your melodic phrases should follow an **aab** organization. You may vary the repetition in the second 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.)
- In your melody, stick to the blues scale, or otherwise fit with the chords.

• Accompaniment

- Use a standard 12-bar blues progression or a standard variation of it.
- To demonstrate fluency in chord symbols and voicings, your accompaniment should audibly connect the chordal 3rds and 7ths to create stepwise voice leading.

Chord sheet

To evaluate your understanding of chord symbols, accompany your audio file with a chord sheet.

- Write the lyrics for your blues song in three lines, corresponding to the three phrases of your blues. (If you do not have lyrics, chart out 12 measures using bar lines only.)
- Show the chord changes of your blues by writing in chord symbols in the corresponding location.
- 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.

Submission

Your complete submission will include two files:

- An .mp3 or .wav file
- A .pdf of your chord sheet

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