



Keywords

Chord	A group of 2 or more notes played together at the same time
12 Bar Blues	A chord progression that uses 3 chords, spread over 12 bars
Blues Scale	A group of notes that can be used for melodies and improvisation in Blues music
Improvisation	To make music up on the spot without preparation
Solo	A section of music where a musician performs a melody whilst other accompany. Often this is improvised
Structure	How music is organised into sections
Walking Bass Line	A part played on low notes where notes of a chord are split up and played one at a time, going up and down

How to Play a 12 Bar Blues

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A Blues Scale to use for Improvising



C Eb F Gb G Bb C



These notes are called **blue notes** because they give blues music its unique sound

The Origins of Blues

- African slaves brought their musical traditions with them when they were transported to work in the North American colonies. Early types of African American music included **spirituals** (religious songs) and **work songs**.
- Work songs were sung rhythmically in time with the task being done. They used **call and response** in which phrases from a lead singer were followed by the other singers. African music combined with the folk music of the white European settlers to produce new styles of music.