



THE BLUES

Listen to the following song. It is called a 'blues' song and was recorded in the 1930's. On the lines below, write down why you think it is called a blues song. You can discuss points with the person next to you if you wish.

On the following lines, write down 6 main points that you think contributed towards the origins of the Blues:

The blues often uses a particular **chord progression** which helps to give it that 'blues' flavour. The simple version of this progression is as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | / | / | / | C | / | / | / | C | / | / | / | C | / | / | / |
| F | / | / | / | F | / | / | / | C | / | / | / | C | / | / | / |
| G | / | / | / | F | / | / | / | C | / | / | / | C | / | / | / |

A more complicated version would include **7th chords** like this:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| C | / | / | / | F | / | / | / | C | / | / | / | C7 | / | / | / |
| F | / | / | / | F | / | / | / | C | / | / | / | C | / | / | / |
| G | / | / | / | F | / | / | / | C | / | / | / | G7 | / | / | / |

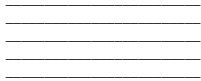
An even more complicated version would have all the chords as 7ths:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| C7 | / | / | / | C7 | / | / | / | C7 | / | / | / | C7 | / | / | / |
| F7 | / | / | / | F7 | / | / | / | C7 | / | / | / | C7 | / | / | / |
| G7 | / | / | / | F7 | / | / | / | C7 | / | / | / | G7 | / | / | / |

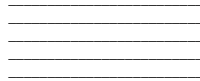
THE 7TH CHORD

To play a 7th chord, you work 7 notes up from the root of the chord - i.e., 7 notes up from C would be a B. You then flatten the note by going down one semi-tone. Here are the 7th chords for the progressions above:

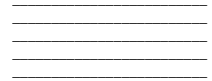
C7



F7



G7



Learn to play one of the above versions of the 12 bar blues pattern on the keyboard! Add a backing track if you like - but try and find one that reflects the mood of the blues.

Evaluation of chord playing:

Tick the statement that applies to you!:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | I can play most of the first version of the 12 bar blues | |
| 2 | I can play the first version well | |
| 3 | I can play the second version well | |
| 4 | I can play the third version well | |

