

Year 8: Blues

Key Words

blues – a style of early jazz, often vocal, descended from African-American work songs and spirituals.

scat – a type of blues singing using nonsense syllables instead of words.

syncopation – emphasis on the ‘off-beats’.

call and response – where one person or group sings or plays a line, and is then answered by another person or group.

improvisation – when a musician makes up the music on the spot.

12-bar blues – a pattern of chords in the order:

C – C – C – C

F – F – C – C

G – F – C – C

fluency – keeping going, even if you make a mistake.

accuracy – correct notes and rhythms.

ensemble – sense of togetherness with other musicians.

Using Spotify or YouTube, listen to some blues performers. You could try Elmore James, *Dust My Broom* and Robert Johnson, *Crossroad Blues*.