

ANOTHER STEP TOWARD THE BLUES

FRED STURM

HERITAGE JAZZWORKS
GRADE 1.5

NOTES TO THE DIRECTOR

Another Step Toward the Blues uses the F blues scale to create the entire piece. Like its predecessor, *Steppin' Up to the Blues* (in Bb), as this chart sequences through each 12-bar chorus, another note from the F blues scale is used. While the **saxophones and brass** unfold the scale steps together, the **pianist and guitarist** learn the basic chords, voicings, and comping patterns, the **bassist** learns a variety of supporting lines, and the **drummer** learns swing patterns incrementally from chorus to chorus.

IDEAS FOR IMPROV

1. USE THE PATTERNS IN THE CHART

All the wind players have multiple examples of the blues scale in use. Have them "mix and match" various ideas from the melodic material of the chart to create their own improvisation.

2. IMPROVISE ON ONE PITCH -- THEN TWO, THEN THREE, ETC.

Using only concert F have all sax & brass players improvise collectively over full rhythm section accompaniment (using patterns provided during the solo section at m. 61) for several choruses, freely mixing their rhythms, articulations, dynamics, and dramatic effects (bends, scoops, falls, etc.). Incrementally add remaining scale steps in the order suggested in Ex. 2 (best ranges for young brass players), and repeat the process.

3. "FREEZE" RHYTHM

Pre-determine a rhythm (i.e. all half notes, all whole notes, etc.) and ask students to improvise individually using all 6 notes of the blues scale.

4. "IMITATION" (with Director or students serving as group leader)

Leader improvises a one-bar idea using only concert F and ensemble imitates it in the following bar. Incrementally add the rest of the blues scale and use other group leaders.

EX. 1

F BLUES SCALE FOR C INSTRUMENTS F BLUES SCALE FOR B-FLAT INSTRUMENTS F BLUES SCALE FOR E-FLAT INSTRUMENTS F BLUES SCALE FOR F INSTRUMENTS F BLUES SCALE FOR BASS CLEF INSTRUMENTS

EX. 2

F BLUES SEQUENCE FOR C INST. F BLUES SEQUENCE FOR B-FLAT INST F BLUES SEQUENCE FOR E-FLAT INST F BLUES SEQUENCE FOR F INST F BLUES SEQUENCE FOR BASS CLEF INST

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SWING (♩ = 126 - 134)

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USING 3 NOTES OF THE BLUES SCALE

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The top section includes Alto Sax 1 & 2, Tenor Sax 1 & 2, and Baritone Sax, all playing a melodic line using the first three notes of the blues scale. The middle section features Trumpet 1-4 and Trombone 1-4, providing harmonic support with a similar melodic line. The bottom section consists of Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The Guitar and Bass parts are labeled 'CHORD ROOTS', while the Piano part is labeled 'CHORD ROOTS' and '3/8'. The Drums part includes a 'RIDE CYMBAL' and 'SD/HI-HAT PEDAL'.

25 NOTE: REPEATED EIGHTH NOTES WITH NO ARTICULATION MARK SHOULD BE PLAYED LEGATO

Musical score for a jazz ensemble. The score includes parts for Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, Bari Sax, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-4, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The music is in 4/4 time and features a blues-influenced melody with repeated eighth notes. Chord progressions are indicated below the piano and bass staves. Performance instructions include 'ADDING A 5TH NOTE OF THE BLUES SCALE' and '1-2-1-2 PATTERN'.

37 SAXES: USING ALL THE NOTES OF THE BLUES SCALE

Musical score for a jazz ensemble. The score includes parts for Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, Bari Sax, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-4, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The saxophone parts feature a blues scale pattern. The guitar and piano parts provide harmonic support with chords and patterns. The bass part features a walking bass line with patterns using 1-2-3. The drum part includes a snare and bass drum pattern.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARISAX

TRUMPET 1

TRUMPET 2

TRUMPET 3

TRUMPET 4

TROMBONE 1

TROMBONE 2

TROMBONE 3

TROMBONE 4

BRASS: USING ALL THE NOTES OF THE BLUES SCALE

QUINTAR

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

60/1321H

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45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

Gm13 C13 F13 C13sus

Gm11 C9 F13 C9sus

Gm17 C7 F7 C7sus

FILL 3

"COMPING" USING RHYTHMIC NOTATION

F13 Bb13 F13 Bb13

F13 Bb13 F13 Bb13

USING SOME CHROMATIC "APPROACH" NOTES

F7 Bb7 F7 Bb7

61 OPEN FOR SOLOS -- BACKGROUNDS ON CUE
(SEE "IDEAS FOR IMPROV")

Musical score for a jazz ensemble. The score is written for Alto 1 & 2, Tenor 1 & 2, Bari Sax, Trumpet 1-4, Trombone 1-4, Guitar, Piano, Bass, and Drums. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into measures 54 through 62. A box labeled '61' is placed above the first staff, with the instruction 'OPEN FOR SOLOS -- BACKGROUNDS ON CUE (SEE "IDEAS FOR IMPROV")'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and articulation marks. Chord symbols are provided for the guitar, piano, and bass parts. The drum part includes a 'FILL' and 'CROSS STICK' notation.

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI SAX

TRUMPET 1

TRUMPET 2

TRUMPET 3

TRUMPET 4

TROMBONE 1

TROMBONE 2

TROMBONE 3

TROMBONE 4

QUINTET

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

G7 C7 G7 F#7 F7 E7 Am17 D7 G7

F13 Eb13 F13 E13 Eb13 D13 Gm13 C13 F13

F13 Eb13 F13 E13 Eb13 D13 Gm11 C9 F13

F7 Bb7 F7 E7 Eb7 D7 Gm7 C7 F7