# ANOTHER STEP TOWARD THE BLUES

FRED 5TURM

Heritage Ja22Works 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.

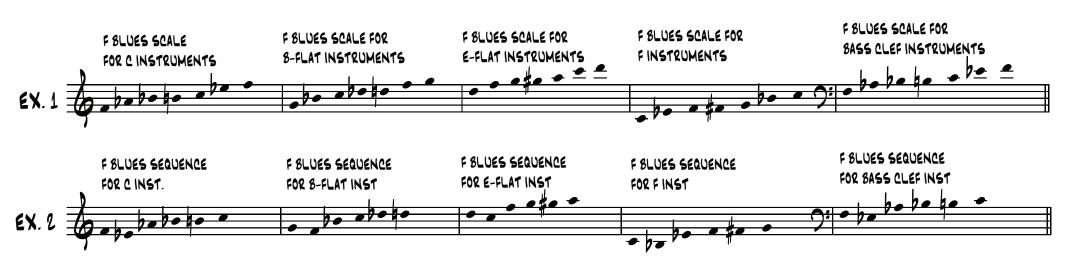
### 2. IMPROVISE ON ONE PITCH -- THEN TWO, THEN THREE, ETC.

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.

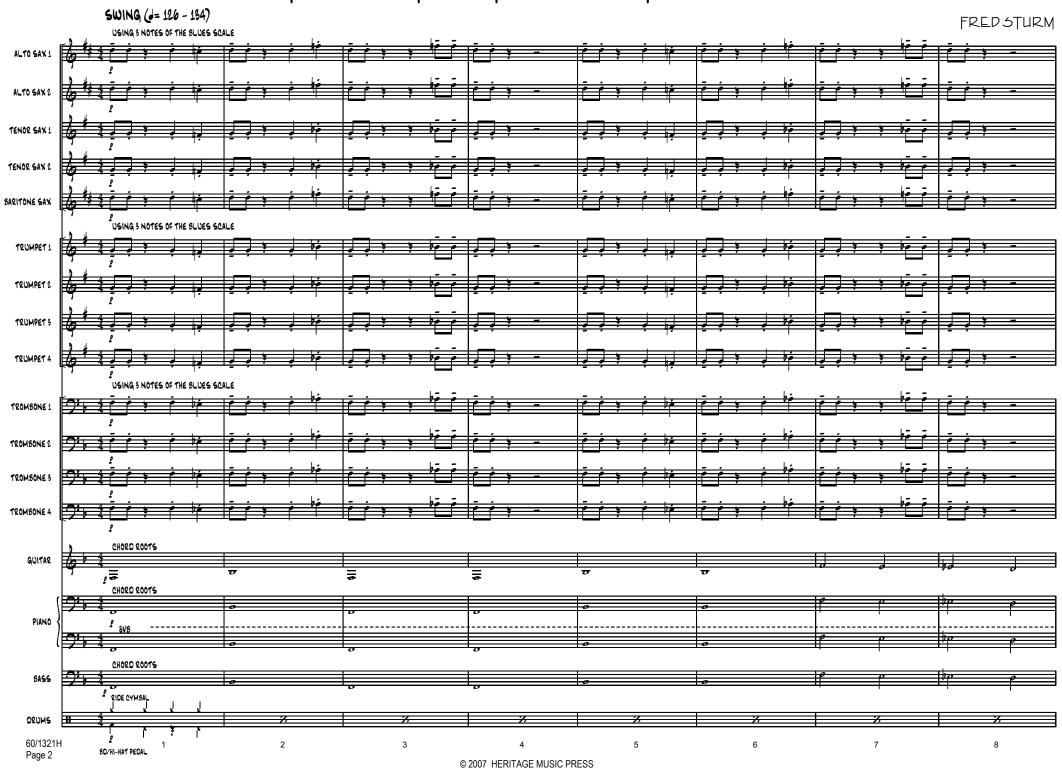
#### 3. "FREEZE" RHYTHM

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.



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