

Women in Music: Exploring Lyrics and Melody Vol. 3

In this unit, we will be celebrating prominent women working in the music industry today. These might be women working in popular music or classical, celebrated as outstanding guitarists, violinists, singers, or lyricists.

We will also be continuing to analyse the way in which songs are written and use the information we have learnt to create our own blues song.



What are the Blues?



The blues are a genre of music that originated in the Deep South of the United States of America in the 1860s. Blues music was built upon spirituals (religious songs), work songs and field hollers sung by slaves and ex-slaves, shouts, chants and

rhythmic stories from the African-American culture. It became hugely popular with black Americans and gradually the rest of the world discovered its charm as well.

As they have their roots in slavery, the blues are known for their sad lyrics and themes about injustice and the longing for a better life.

Twelve Bar Blues

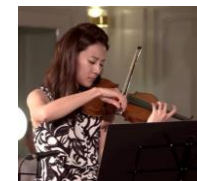
12 Bar Blues			
C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
G	F	C	C

The most common musical form of blues is the 12-bar blues. These have a repeated 12 bar cyclic pattern which loops throughout the song. Nearly all blues music is played to a 4/4 time signature, which means that there are four beats in every measure or bar and each quarter note is equal to one beat.

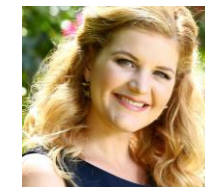
Our Listening



Shake 'Em on Down by Samantha Fish (Blues Rock)



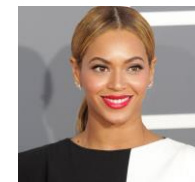
Clara-Jumi Kang's Performance of Massenet's Thaïs Mediation (Classical Violinist)



Time to Say Goodbye performed by Mirusia Louwerse, André Rieu & his Johann Strauss Orchestra (Opera)



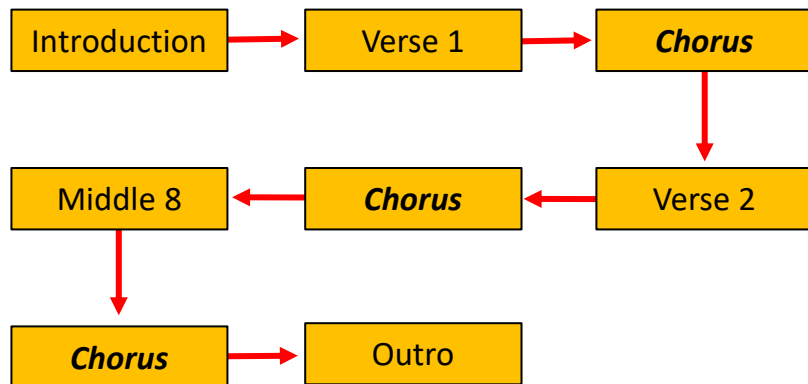
Someone Like You by Adele (Pop/Soul)



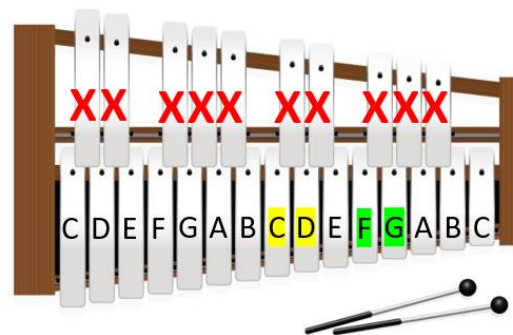
Love on Top by Beyoncé (Pop)

Song Structure

Lots of pop songs tend to follow this order:



Playing the Twelve Bar Blues



12 Bar Blues			
C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
G	F	C	C

For C chord – C and G

For F chord – C and F

For G chord – D and G

You cannot use any of the notes on the top row.

Rhyme Schemes and Repetition

The majority of all songs have a rhyme scheme. This is where couplets (pairs) or groups of lines **rhyme** together. This is important as it makes the song catchy and easy to remember.

Four lines long.

Adventure seeker on an empty street.
Just an alley creeper, light on his feet.

A young fighter screaming, with no time for doubt,
With the pain and anger can't see a way out.

Two lines long.

"It ain't much I'm asking," I heard him say.
"Gotta find me a future; move out of my way."



Pulse and Rhythm



Pulse is the heartbeat of the music.



Rhythm is when long and short notes are joined together.

Improvisation

Improvisation is playing music on the spur of the moment without practise or written notation.



Musical Notes - Duration



Crotchet = 1 beat



Crotchet rest = 1 beat of silence



Minim = 2 beats



Semibreve = 4 beats



Dotted Crotchet = 1 ½ beats



1 quaver = ½ beat
2 quavers = 1 full beat



Quaver rest = ½ beat of silence



1 semiquaver = ¼ beat
4 semiquavers = 1 full beat



Dotted Minim = 3 beats

Dynamics



f

Loud



p

Quiet

Musical Notes - Pitch

