

Blues songs often told a story. They talked about the challenges and difficulties that African-Americans faced. Many parts of the blues, like the call-and-response style and blue notes, came from music of Africa.

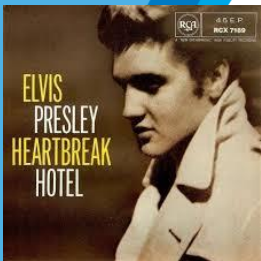


Use the QR code to listen to Runaway Blues by Ma Rainey.

Musician

The Blues

Making Connections ...



Use this QR code to listen to Heartbreak Hotel by Elvis Presley which uses the 12 bar blues chord progression.



Blues is a type of music and musical form that started with African-Americans in the Deep South of the United States around the 1860s. Blues music grew from different sounds like spirituals (religious songs), work songs (songs sung while working), and rhymed ballads (story songs) from African-American culture.

Blues music is very important in jazz, rhythm and blues, and rock and roll. It often uses a "call-and-response" pattern, where one musical phrase is answered by another. It also uses a special blues scale and certain chord progressions, like the twelve-bar blues.



Use the QR code to listen to The Blues Brothers.

of the Month

Use the QR code to listen to BB King, one of the most famous blues guitarists.



"Blue notes" are also a key part of the blues sound. These notes are played a little flatter than usual. Blues "shuffles" or "walking bass" lines create a steady, repeating rhythm called a "groove".

