

Name: _____

Date: _____

Honors Music Theory

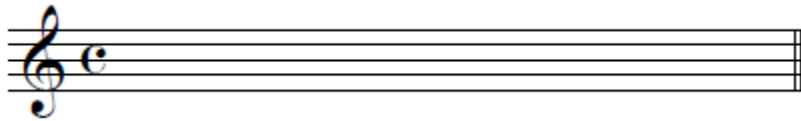
Period: ____

Composition – 12-Bar Blues

For this composition, you will be composing and performing a piece of music in 12-Bar Blues form, using the blues scale in the key of G. Depending on your instrument, you will do the following:

- Wind: Two differing choruses of solo
- Voice: Two differing choruses of solo on scat syllables
- Guitar: Rhythm guitar accompaniment and one chorus of solo
- Bass: Simple quarter note bass-line and one chorus of solo
- Piano: Piano Accompaniment and one chorus of solo
- Drums: Percussion and two choruses of solo (which will be played by someone else)

Below, notate the G blues scale. *These are the only pitches you will use in your melody.* (If you are playing the trumpet, clarinet, or tenor saxophone, notate the A blues scale. If you are playing the alto saxophone, notate the E blues scale.)



Keep in mind the harmonic structure, as well as the melodic structure of the 12-bar blues, which is as follows:

A: ||: I | I | I | I |

A: | IV | IV | I | I |

B: | V7 | IV | I | V7 :||

Also keep in mind that the final chorus in a blues song will end with a “I” chord, rather than a “V,” making the last line appear as the following:

| V7 | IV | I | I :||

Please keep in mind that performance is worth 40% of your grade for this assignment. Lack of preparation may result in a failing grade for this assignment. Be sure to leave yourself time to practice playing/singing your composition. The difference between messing up because of nerves and messing up because you did not practice enough is obvious for anyone actually paying attention, so no excuses. The only reason you should be nervous is if you did not practice.

Piano Accompaniment/Bass Line

Pianists: Notate a piano accompaniment below, using the P5-M6-m7-M6 pattern discussed in class.

Bassists: Notate, using four quarter notes per measure, the root of each chord. This will be your bass line.

Guitarists: It may help you to notate each chord you will play in the space below (in other words, write “GM” rather than “I.”

I I I I

IV IV I I

V7 IV I V7

Melody

Remember that your blues melody will be composed in an AAB structure. Therefore, the first and second line of each chorus should be exactly the same. See front page for instructions pertaining to specific instruments.

Melody 1:

Melody 2: