

Music 238 Blues Form Assignment

Short description:

Compose a 12-bar blues based on first part of the "We Shall Overcome" melody. At a minimum, you will need to record chords (or just a bass line) and a melody (instrumental or sung, but you can use whatever words you like).

Long description:

Compose a 12-bar blues that includes at least chords (or bass line) and a melody. The melody can be sung (whatever words you like), or instrumental. The suggested motif to use for the melody is the first part of "We Shall Overcome".

The idea behind the assignment is to see how much variety people can produce, even when using the same form and melodic motif. That said, you may use a different motif (original or "borrowed" from another song).

In addition to the 12 bars, you may want to include a short (1-2 measure) introduction.

If you are more savvy with your recording software, you can then make a particular arrangement based on your stylistic tastes. (and if you have the time).

Below are some possible models of how the chords can fit into the form. The "(7)" means that the chord(s) could be 7th chords. You are welcome to experiment beyond these possibilities, but try to follow the spirit of the form.

Here is a standard version of the form's chords in the key of C:

C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾
F⁽⁷⁾	F⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾
G⁽⁷⁾	F⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾

Here is that same form, but in the key of E, which is good for guitarists:

E⁽⁷⁾	E⁽⁷⁾	E⁽⁷⁾	E⁽⁷⁾
A⁽⁷⁾	A⁽⁷⁾	E⁽⁷⁾	E⁽⁷⁾
B⁽⁷⁾	A⁽⁷⁾	E⁽⁷⁾	E⁽⁷⁾

Here are the chords that we used in the group-composing exercise ("238 Blues"):

C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾
F⁽⁷⁾	F⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾
E^b(7)	F⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾	C⁽⁷⁾

These are the chords I used in my example/version:

C	C	C	C
F	F	C	C
B^b	F	C	C

Please make your recording into an .mp3 file for ease of use.