

# Blues Autumn Cycle A



## Key vocabulary

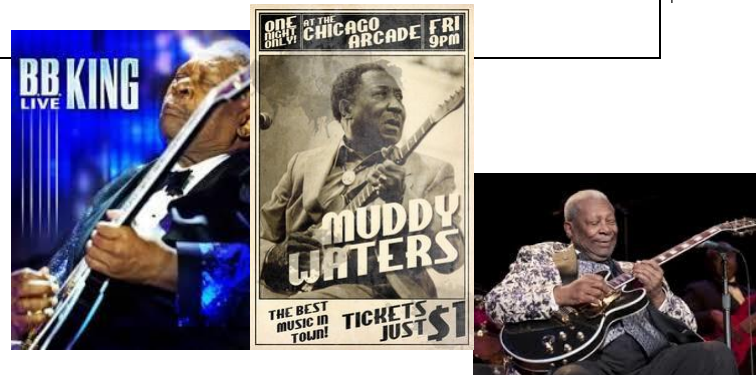
<b>Blues</b>	Music started by slaves in America in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
<b>Twelve bar blues</b>	A series of chords played in a specific order for blues music.
<b>Cord</b>	More than one note played at once - usually two or three notes.
<b>Cord progression</b>	A succession of musical chords, which are three or more notes, typically sounded simultaneously.
<b>Beat</b>	The steady pulse of music.
<b>Stay in time</b>	Keeping to a steady beat, not going faster or slower than the music.
<b>Bent note</b>	A note where there is a variation in pitch, often heard in India music. On a guitar you can see the string being moved (bent) to change the note.
<b>Improvisation</b>	Making things up as you go along - also often used in drama.
<b>Sharp #</b>	Also called <b>Diese</b> , means higher in pitch by a semitone (half step).
<b>Beat b</b>	When a tone is to be lowered a half step.

## Key Musical Features

- blues.
- This is 12 bars (4 counts) of chords repeated over and over.
- It usually only uses three chords.
- It also uses improvisation – improvisation is where you make something up as you go along ( this is how it all began!).
- Musical instruments used in blues music are drums, bass (usually acoustic), piano or keyboard, trumpet / trombone, clarinet, sacophone, guitar and singing.
- B.B. King and Muddy Waters are very well known for their blues music.

## Core Knowledge

- Blues music is about sadness, hardship and tough times, about lost love and heartache or overcoming hard luck.
- It's about saying how you feel, getting rid of any frustration and having fun.
- The Blues originated in America. It was started by black African slaves singing about how their life was in the years since they were taken to the Americas.
- It is influenced by African tribal chants and work songs.



## THE MUSIC NOTE TREE

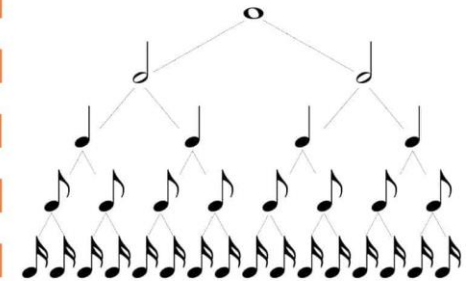
Semibreve - 4 beats

Minim - 2 beats

Crotchet - 1 beat

Quaver - 1/2 beat

Semiquaver - 1/4 beat



Two quavers on their own become:

We can also have different combinations of quavers and semiquavers beamed together.

Beaming semiquavers (sixteenth notes) - It works the same with semiquavers but instead of having one beam between their stems we use two beams. This is because they have two tails.