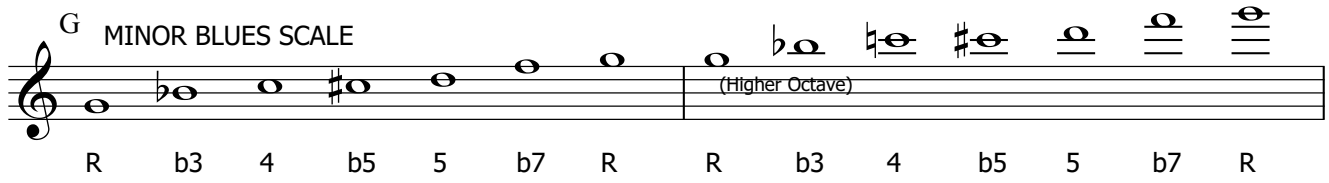
Alto/Bari Sax

The MAJOR Blues Scale

Dr. Selfridge

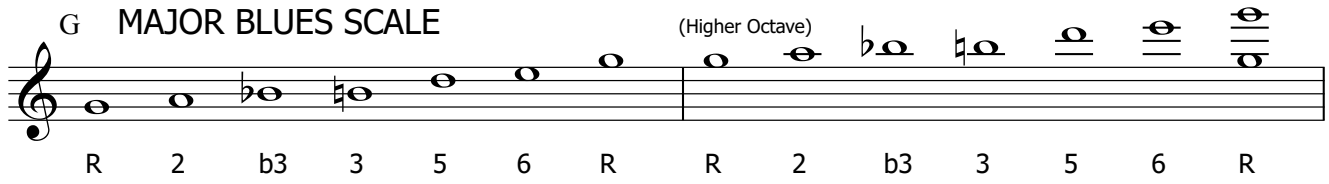
Did you know there are TWO Blues scales? In a different worksheet titled "The Blues Scale (AKA Minor Blues Scale)", we learned all about the Minor Blues Scale, and practiced playing short musical phrases using that scale. As a quick review, below is the MINOR Blues Scale:



The Minor Blues Scale is the most commonly-known and taught blues scale, and it is a great way to get started with the blues sound.

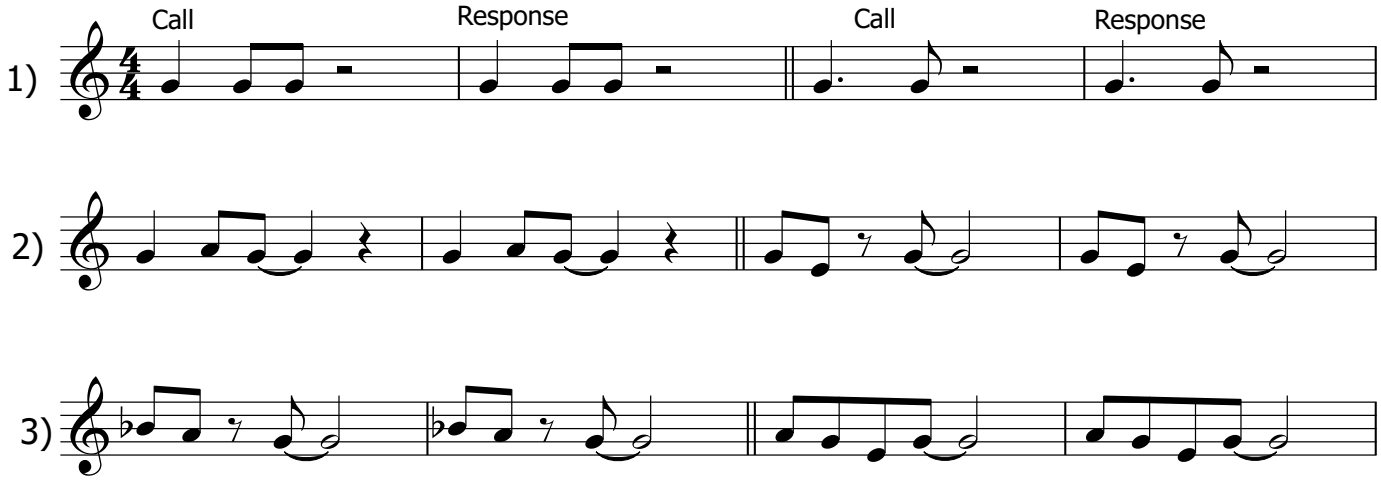
While it is a great tool, the Minor Blues Scale it is missing some important notes. If you listen to the great blues and jazz musicians in history, you will hear them playing wonderful, bluesy-sounding phrases that use notes that are not in the scale above, such as the Major 3rd and the Major 6th.

That is why we are going to learn about an additional type of blues scale called the MAJOR BLUES SCALE. Let's look at the notes that are in the Major Blues Scale. Just as we do with any new scale we learn, we can label the notes with numbers and how they are altered compared to the Major scale. Here are the notes of the Major Blues Scale:



Playing (improvising) a solo using the Major Blues Scale

Just as we did with the Minor Blues Scale, let's play some short phrases on the Major Blues Scale in a **call-and-response** style. The teacher, or a designated student, will play the call, and everyone will respond with the same pattern. This can also be called an echo.



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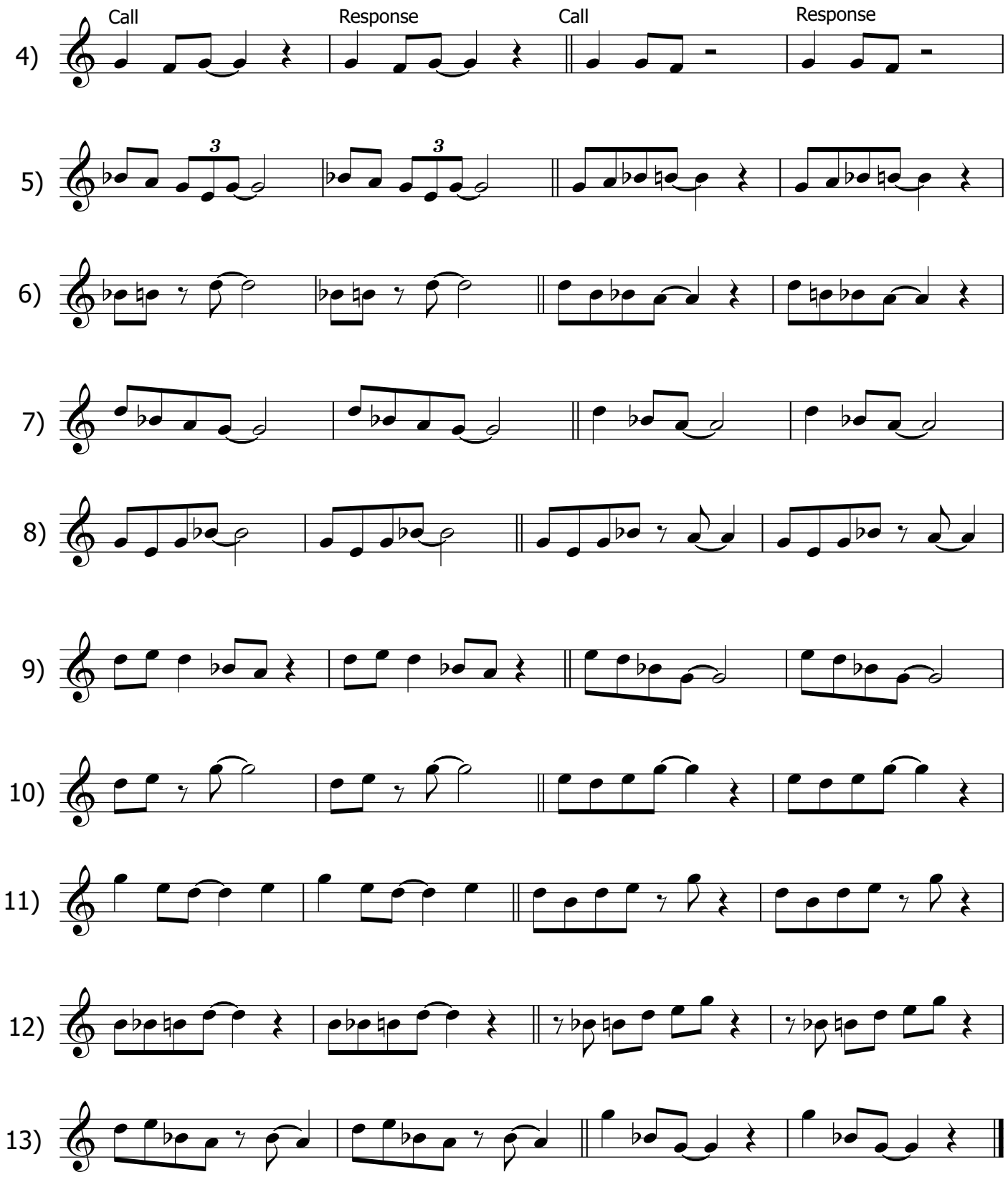
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