

# One-Riff Blues Tunes

The most common blues song structure is 12 bars. In most blues songs, these 12 bars are organized in three phrases of four bars in each. There are MANY blues melodies that are simply one phrase, four bars long, that is repeated a total of three times. We could call them "One-Riff Blues". This worksheet contains examples of these blues melodies.

## 1) Happy Go Lucky Local (Ellington)

Play 3 times

C Instruments

B $\flat$  Upper Octave

B $\flat$  Lower Octave

Alto/Bari Sax (E $\flat$ )

Horn (F)

Trombone/Euph/Bassoon

Tuba

## 2) Bag's Groove (Milt Jackson)

Play 3 times

5

C Instruments

B $\flat$  Upper Octave

B $\flat$  Lower Octave

Alto/Bari Sax (E $\flat$ )

Horn (F)

Trom/Euph/Bassoon

Tuba

# One-Riff Blues Tunes

2

## 3) C-Jam Blues (Ellington)

10 Play 3 times

C Instruments

B $\flat$  Upper Octave

B $\flat$  Lower Octave

Alto/Bari Sax (E $\flat$ )

Horn (F)

Trom/Euph/Bassoon

Tuba

Detailed description: This musical score is for the piece 'C-Jam Blues' by Duke Ellington. It consists of seven staves. The top staff is for 'C Instruments' (C Trumpet). The second staff is for 'B $\flat$  Upper Octave' (B $\flat$  Trumpet). The third staff is for 'B $\flat$  Lower Octave' (B $\flat$  Trumpet). The fourth staff is for 'Alto/Bari Sax (E $\flat$ )'. The fifth staff is for 'Horn (F)'. The sixth staff is for 'Trom/Euph/Bassoon'. The seventh staff is for 'Tuba'. The music is in 4/4 time and features a repeating rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes. A 'Play 3 times' instruction is placed above the first measure of the C Instruments staff.

## 4) SonnyMoon for Two (Sonny Rollins)

14 Play 3 times

C Instruments

B $\flat$  Upper Octave

B $\flat$  Lower Octave

Alto/Bari Sax (E $\flat$ )

Horn (F)

Trom/Euph/Bassoon

Tuba

Detailed description: This musical score is for the piece 'SonnyMoon for Two' by Sonny Rollins. It consists of seven staves. The top staff is for 'C Instruments' (C Trumpet). The second staff is for 'B $\flat$  Upper Octave' (B $\flat$  Trumpet). The third staff is for 'B $\flat$  Lower Octave' (B $\flat$  Trumpet). The fourth staff is for 'Alto/Bari Sax (E $\flat$ )'. The fifth staff is for 'Horn (F)'. The sixth staff is for 'Trom/Euph/Bassoon'. The seventh staff is for 'Tuba'. The music is in 4/4 time and features a complex melodic line with many slurs and accents. A 'Play 3 times' instruction is placed above the first measure of the C Instruments staff.