



## Blues, Ragtime and Swing



### **Blues**

*Started as Black American folk music developing from spirituals and work songs. Blues is often in 4/4 time and is often in a 12 bar structure and on a scale where some notes are flattened*

### **Blues scale**

*In the key of C, the notes are C, Eb, F, Gb, C*

### **Spiritual**

*A type of religious song developed by black Americans in the 1870's*

### **12 bar blues**

*A chord structure used to compose many Blues pieces.*

*In the key of C the structure is*

*C / C / C / C*

*F / F / C / C*

*G / F / C / C*

### **Scat singing**

*Used in Jazz singing.*

*Nonsense words and syllables are improvised by the singer*

### **Jazz band**

*A group which performs jazz.*

*Instruments include drumkit, brass, piano, saxophone and trumpet*

### **Riff**

*a repeated phrase usually found in jazz and popular music.*

### **Ragtime**

*A style of dance (rag) music popular in America at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century which helped to influence jazz.*

*Usually played on the piano, it has a syncopated melody and a steady left hand accompaniment*

### **Syncopation**

*Strongly accented notes playing 'off' the beat.*

### **Swing**

*A jazz style which started in the 1930's. The group which played swing was known as a 'Big band'*

### **Big band**

*Consisted of 4trumpets, 3 trombones, 5 saxophones and a rhythm section of piano, bass and drums*

### **Improvisation**

*Where the performer makes the music up as he goes along. Heavily used in blues and jazz music.*

