

Example lyrics to Blues Songs (these can be about anything you feel “blue” about). Where the beats approximately fall is given on the first example. There is a total of 12 bars of 4 beats each, yet often a song will not begin on beat 1, but on the beat(s) before; in these cases there will be 1 or more beats less at the end of the song, so 12 bars (or 48 beats) are complete.

Once you’ve heard the following two examples on the CD (Track 1), you can practice fitting in your own words (with notes from the Blues Scale noted below); track 2 leaves space for you to fit in your own words.

Track 3 allows you to practice scat singing; I lead, then you repeat my one bar scats, then my 2 bar scats (just like we’ve done at the rehearsals).

Track 4 has the entire, uninterrupted, 12 bar Blues progression; you can use it to practice soloing over the whole form, with instruments or scat singing.

Some people will be chosen to lead in singing Blues Songs (with their own made up words), and some others will be chosen to lead the

group in scat singing. Unfortunately, with such a large group, only some people will lead at the concert, but everyone will have a chance to practice with the recordings, and create their own words and scat.

After the person leading the song sings the first two lines, the entire choir can repeat those words and melody (just like we've done in the rehearsals). I will coach each leader to make sure they are comfortable performing the chosen Blues songs at the concert.

(Track 1) "The Environmental Blues"

4 1 2 3

I'm tired of people, (blues licks)

4 1 2 3 4 1 234 123

Throwing bottles on the **street**,

4 1 2 3

I'm tired of people, (blues licks)

4 1 2 3 4 1 234 123

Throwing bottles on the **street**,

4 1 2 3

Re-use and re-cycle, (blues licks)

4 1 2 3 4 1 234 123 etc.

So this whole wide world can be **neat**.

NOTE (re the above) : The word “Neat” (last word) rhymes with the word “Street” (last word, lines 2&4).

= Total of 12 bars (48 beats)

(Track 1)“The Homework Blues” (Write in where the beats fall! Can you feel where the strong beats are? Use the finger pulsing technique to help you to discover the strong beats).

It’s been a long, long, day,

And I’ve got the homework **blues**

,

It’s been a long, long, day,

And I’ve got the homework **blues**,

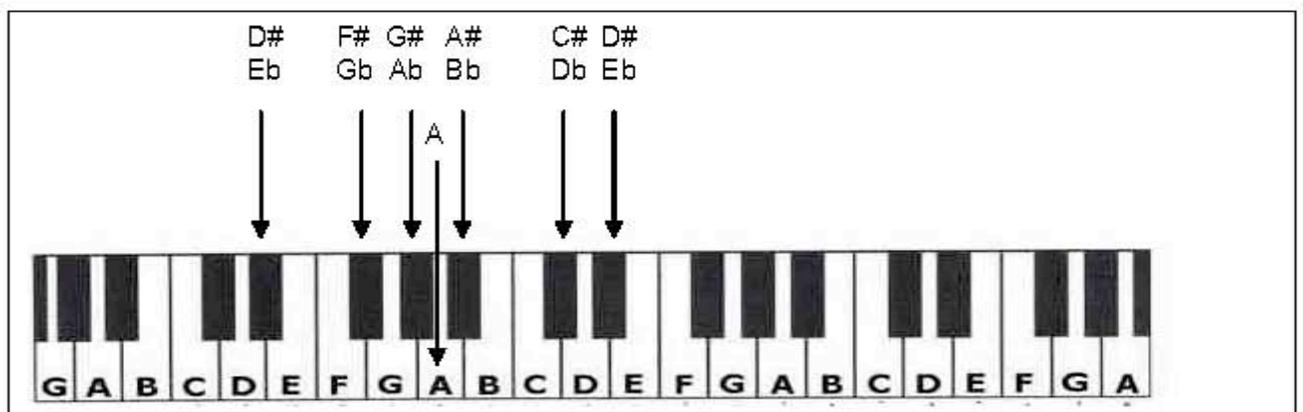
So I want to play outside,

Get into my blue suede **shoes**

!

Blues melodies (that go with your words and/or scat singing) can be created using the following sounds shown on the piano diagram below; sometimes the same note has a different name; what's important for now is that you locate these notes on a keyboard or piano, and have a good listen to how they sound. You can also play around with them on the electronic "virtual" keyboard provided by going to the web address below. It's very cool, "dig" the saxophone sound! Have fun creating your Blues songs and scats!

The Blues we are doing (based on Dr. Harris' song, "Ay-Ba..") is in the key (or "home base") of Eb (sometimes called "D#"); so we use the corresponding Blues scale beginning on the D#/Eb key:



Link to Virtual Keyboard:

[http://www.bgfl.org/custom/resources\\_ftp/client\\_ftp/ks2/music/piano/](http://www.bgfl.org/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks2/music/piano/)

See if you can find these same Blues notes on the virtual keyboard. Enjoy discovering the Blues scale, and using it with your lyrics and scat singing. And if you hear other sounds, that's cool too!

Have fun with the Blues! Conductor Katz.