The Joy of Modern Blues

Selected and arranged by Denes Agay and Frank Metis.
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Back Water Blues

Slow blues
D7#9

Well, it rained five days and the sky was dark as night,

D7#9 G7 D7#9 G7 D7#9

Yes, it rained five days and the sky was dark as

G7add6 A7add6 G7add6

There's trouble in the

D7#9

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After You've Gone

Moderately slow (with a $\frac{3}{4}$ feel)

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Another Shade of Blue

Slowly, with a free lift

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Bad Luck Blues

Slow funky blues (with a \( \frac{3}{4} \) feel)

Blind Lemon Jefferson

C7

I wanna go home, but I ain't

C Dm7 Em F C C7

got sufficient clothes, dog-gone my bad luck soul.

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Wanna go home, but I ain't got sufficient clothes, I mean sufficient.

Sold my clothes and I wanna go home, But I

ain't got sufficient clothes.
Blue Odyssey

Slow and steady

Frank Metis

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Blues on Bach Backwards

(The left-hand ostinato is based on the notes B - C - A - B♭ which, read in reverse, are the anglicized version of the letters B - A - C - H.)

Frank Metis

Slow blues

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Blues Danube
(With apologies to Johann Strauss)

Slowly, with expression

Frank Metis

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Chopin in Blue

Prelude in C minor

by Frédéric Chopin

Slow and steady
No chord

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Chilly Wind Blues

Slowly

Traditional

With a slight feel

head-in' where those chilly winds don't blow, my sweet baby,

Head-in' where those chilly winds don't blow, when I'm

gone to my long, lonesome home, when I'm

gone to my long, lonesome home.

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Corinna

Very bluesy

Corinna, Corinna,
where you been so long?

Corinna, Corinna,

where you been so long?

I ain't had no lovin' since you been gone.
G/E  A7+  Dmaj9  D6
pleee-ly, com-plete-ly  cra-zy.  You

Dmaj7  F13  Bb9  G/A
whis-per “yes,”  you’re scream-ing “no,”  You

Dmaj7  F13  Bb9  A9
want to stay,  you want to go,  You

C/D  D7#9  Gm9  Bb/C
drive me com-plete-ly, com-plete-ly, com-plete-ly, com-

G/A  A7+  Dmaj9  D6
pleee-ly, com-plete-ly  cra-zy.  There's
Gm7

C7

2

F

Dm7

1

no
tell-in' what the weather will do, And

Gm7

C7

F

this, my dear, applies to you. So

Em7

Bb7b5

Bm7

Bb7b5

how can I feel enthusiastic when your

Em7

Bb7b5

Em7

A7b5

temperature changes are much too drastic. You're
Always warm and always cold, You

Tell me, "Child, you're much too old!" You

Drive me completely, completely, completely, completely, completely, completely, completely, completely, completely, crazy.
Dallas Blues

Moderately

Hart A. Wand and L. Garrett

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Goin' Down That Road Feelin' Bad

Moderately

Traditional

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poco rit.

mp somewhat freely

slightly more motion

Slowly, quasi a tempo

mf cantabile
House of the Rising Sun

Moderate slow blues

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A Good Man Is Hard to Find

Eddie Green

Slowly, with a beat

Verse:
C6  D9
My heart's sad and I am all forlorn,

G7  C  Bb  G+  C6  Cm
My man's treating me mean. I regret the day that

G  D7  G
I was born. And that man of mine I've ever seen.

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My happiness, it never lasts a day, My heart is almost breaking while I say: A good man is hard to find, You always get the other kind. Just when you think that he is your pal, You look for him and find him fooling 'round some other gal. Then you
You even crave To see him laying in his grave.

So, if your man is nice, take my advice, And

Hug him in the morning, Kiss him every night, Give him plenty loving,

Treat him right, For a good man nowadays is hard to find.

A7

G7

C

B

C

G7

C

C6

C

C6

C

C6

C

C7

C

D7

F/G

G7

Dm7

G7

C

Dm7

C6#7

1

Dm7

G7

2

Dm7

B7

C6
Happily Unhappy

Slow blues

Dm9  \( \text{Ab}^\#7 \)  Dm9

Frank Metis

I'm happily unhappy,

Gm9  C7\#9  F  Bm7  E9

I'm gladly sad and blue.

When I hear you whisper, "There'll never be another {boy} like

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me for you." I know it can't be true; 'Cause

I heard my best friend cry when you kissed [his] [her]

lips goodbye, and laughingly left [him.] [her.]

I'm happily unhappy.
I Ain’t Got Nobody

Words by Roger Graham

Music by Spencer Williams and Dave Peyton

Slow and “bluesish”

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me.

That's why

I'm sad and lonely.

Say,

won't you just take a chance with me?

'Cause I'll sing sweet songs

all the time.

If you will be
a
apal of
mine. a
'Cause

ain't got
no-
bod

y, And
no-
bod-
y
cares for

my

ricord e dim.
I Should Have Stayed Home

Moderately slow blues, sadly reflecting

Frank Metis

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no one I know, There's no one I know.

I walk the street and hope I'll meet a friend.

The buildings are cold, and people don't smile.

I don't find a warm and friendly kind, I'm gonna
leave here in short while.

should have stayed home!

home!

You can only guess how much loneliness I feel when I roam.

I should have, I

should have, I

rall. should have stayed home!
Just Some Plain Ol' B# Blues

"Bluesish," not too slow

Frank Metis

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Midnight Special

Moderately slow, with a steady beat (♩♩ feel)

Verse:

Well, you get up in the morn-in',

you hear the ding-dong

Now you look up on the table,

You find no food up on the

You see the same ol' thing.

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But if you say a thing about it, you get in trouble with the man.

So, let the midnight special shine its light on me. Let the midnight special shine its ever-loving light on you.

To next strain

No chord

Fine

D7#9

G13

Instrumental solo
Kansas City Blues

Moderate blues (with a ▼ ▼ feel)

G7#9

Traditional

mf River is deep and the river is wide,

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Gal I love is on the other side, I'm gonna

move to Kansas City.

move to Kansas City.

move, honey, baby where they don't know you.
The Memphis Blues

Words by George A. Norton

Music by W. C. Handy

Slowly

F F#7 F

F#7 F

C7 B7 C7 B7 C7

C7

Verse:

Folk, I've just been down, down to Memphis town, That's where the people smile,

F

smile on you all the while. Hospitality, they were good to me.

F#7 C7

A7

I couldn't spend a dime, And had the grandest time.

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I went out a-dancin' with a Tennessee dear, They had a fellow there named Handy with a band you should hear, And while the young folks gently swayed, All dem minstrels played real harmony, I never will forget the tune that
Handy called the Memphis Blues. Oh them Blues. They got a

finder there that always slickens his hair, an' folks, he

sure do pull some bow. And when the big bass soon

seconds to the trombone croon, croon. It

moans just like a singer on Revival
Day, on Revival Day, That melancholy strain, that ever
haunting refrain is like a lover's sorrow song. Here comes the
very part that wraps a spell around my heart,

It sets me wild to

hear that lovin' tune again, The Memphis Blues.
My Melancholy Baby

Fairly slow, with expression

Emie Burnett

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Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

Traditional

Slow blues

G

C7sus4 C7 G

trouble I've seen, No-body knows but Jesus

C7sus4 C7 B7 E7 A9 G/B C6 D

No-body knows the trouble I've seen, Glory Hallelujah!

G C/G G Bb Dm Ab7 G7 Bb Dm Ab7 G7

Sometimes I'm feeling so far down,

D Dm A9 A9b5 D7

Oh yes, Lord.

But my salvation
To Peter Pickow

Reverend Peter’s Blues Guitar

Frank Metis

Moderately slow

Em7add4

C

C/D 3

D/C

C

C/D 4

D/C 4

Em 5

A/C♯ 5

C7 5

Bm

Em

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Sarabande in Blue

Adapted by Frank Metis

G.F. Handel

Moderately slow, with a steady beat

Dm A7 Dm

Gm Dm Gm A

Dm

A

F

Dbº7

C

D

Gm

Ebº7

Dm

Bb maj7 Bb6

E

A

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St. Louis Blues

W. C. Handy

'Cause my ba - by, he done left this

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G
town.

G7
Feel in' tomorrow

C7
like I feel today.

G
Feel tomorrow like I feel today.

C7

G

D7
I'll pack my trunk, make my get-a-

D+

D7

G
way.

Gm
St. Louis woman
Cm/Eb
Gm
D7

with her diamond rings.

Pulls that

Gm
man 'round

by her apron strings.

Cm/Eb
Gm

Tweren't for powder

and for store-bought hair,

The man I love

Gm
A7
D7

would not go no where,

poco a poco cresc.

where.

Got the
St. Louis blues just as blue as I can be

That man got a heart like a rock cast in the sea,

Like a Kentucky Colonel loves his mint and rye,

Or else he wouldn't have gone.

So far from me.

The day I die.
Step It Up and Go

Funky blues

G

Used to have a gal, she was little and low. She

G7

used to love me, but she don't no more. She had to

C7

step and up and go.

G

Oh yeah, go!

D7

She couldn't stay there, I do-

C7

clear, she had to step it up and go!

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Swanee River Spiritual

Stephen Foster

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Titantic Blues

Slowly (with a  feel)

G7

\textbf{Early one mornin'},
just about four o' clock,

G7

It was early one mornin',

\textbf{just about four o' clock},

When that

D7

old Titanic began to reel and rock.

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G

Titanic sinking

C7

in the deep blue sea,

G7

Titanic sinking in the deep blue sea,

G

And the band all playin',

C7

"Near-er My God To Thee."

G

C6 G
Telephone Blues

Note: The numerical values of a phone number were used to create the scale, rhythm patterns, harmony, melody and form for this composition. Hence the title!

Frank Metis

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