

12-Bar Blues

W.C. Handy (Father of the Blues 1873-1958) was the first to notate the blues so people could play together. Prior to 1912 was known as “Hummin’ Head”- You either hummed or kept what you knew in your head.

Antiphonal or Call and Response style singing

A1 (Statement):

“I love my Baby, but my baby don’t love me.”

A2 (Re-Emphasis of A1):

“I love my Baby, ooh, but my baby sho’nuf don’t love me.”

B (Explains the significance or resolves the first two lines):

“You know I really love that woman, I just can’t stand to leave her be.”

Three Primary Chords:

I: Tonic

IV: Sub-Dominant

V: Dominant

Slow Change Blues:

| I | I | I | I |

| IV | IV | I | I |

| V | IV | I | V :||

Quick Change Blues:

| I | IV | I | I |

| IV | IV | I | I |

| V | IV | I | V :||

Turn Around:

Last two measures which lead back to the beginning. | I | V :||