

THE BLUES

THE BLUES is the oldest and most basic form in jazz. Frankie and Johnnie dates back to the 1840's. In its simplest form THE BLUES is twelve bars long: 4 bars I, 2 bars IV, 2 bars I, 2 bars V, 2 bars I.

Concert F has been the most common key for THE BLUES in jazz from *New Orleans* (St. Louis Blues, Royal Garden Blues) to swing (Creole Love Call, Sepia Panorama, Jeeps Blues, Kansas City) to bebop (Straight No Chaser, Blue Monk, Blues for Alice, Au Private, Now's the Time, Billie's Bounce, Bag's Groove, Dance of the Infidels) to Post-bop Stratusfunk, Walkin', Birdlike, The Second Race, Nancy Jo, Eighty One). Some tunes lengthen the blues (Watermelon Man); some shorten it to eight bars and add a bridge (Confirmation). There are many common substitute changes used when playing THE BLUES.