

# Individual Assignment #6: Singing the Blues

Procedure:

- 1) Listen to the Blues form of Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith.
- 2) Analyze the use of the call and response style and placement of improvisation.
- 3) Discuss the blues song recipe below.
- 4) Compose, practice and perform your own blues song.

Blues song recipe -

Line 1 - The first line of the blues is separated into two short four beat phrases. The first phrase is about four beats long ending with a harmonica riff (Da, Da, Da, Da)

*Example – “I woke up this moanin’”* (harmonica response 4+, 5-, 5+, 4-)

The second 4 beat phrase is added followed by an 8 beat improvisation

*Example “I couldn’ get outta bed”* (harmonica improvisation)

Line 2 - The first line is repeated with melodic and thematic improvisation.

Very important note: and the last word of line 1b and 2b **must** be the same.

*Example “That nasty clock went off”* (harmonica 4+, 5-, 5+, 4-)

*“But I couldn’ get outta that bed”* (harmonica improvisation)

Line 3 - In the last line, the sorrow is resolved.

Very important: The last word of this sentence must rhyme with the last word of lines 1b and 2b.

*Example “ I just threw that thing out the window”*(harmonica 4+, 5-, 5+, 4-)

*“ and pulled my covers over my head”* (harmonica improvisation)

## Write and perform your own blues song using your G Blues demo.

1a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Da, Da, Da, Da)

1b) \_\_\_\_\_ (8 beats of improv )

2a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Da, Da, Da, Da)

2b) \_\_\_\_\_ (8 beats of improv )

3a) \_\_\_\_\_ (Da, Da, Da, Da)

3b) \_\_\_\_\_ (8 beats of improv )