

# Litchfield Jazz Camp Jazz/Blues Basic Listening List (v2)

by Don Braden

To learn to play jazz well, listening to jazz masters of various styles and eras is essential. Since the Blues is such an important part of the foundation of jazz, listening to the jazz masters (& Blues masters, too) playing Blues is also essential. Below are some links to classic jazz performances of some standard Blues songs. We will play many of these songs at jazz camp!

Pay attention to the overall vibe, but also listen intently to the details: notes, rhythms, sound, improvisational creativity, interaction between the players, expressive nuances, etc. Also, listen for the 12-bar form, and the specifics of the accompaniment (called 'comping' in jazz), which is played by the piano, guitar (if present), bass and drums. The more you listen, the more you discover!

After listening some, it is fun and instructive to improvise along with these performances. Start with easy notes, such as those in the minor pentatonic or Blues scales. A simple example of this is for a Blues in F, the F minor pentatonic scale is: F Ab Bb C Eb. Start with just two or three notes at first. The Blues scale adds the note B to the F minor pentatonic: F Ab Bb B C Eb. More advanced players may use a lead sheet or one of the many standard jazz-blues chord progressions for more harmonic precision. Check out our web site for more information on scales and chords.

Strive to make your sound, rhythm, phrasing, melodic/harmonic ideas and expressive nuances fit the style of the piece. Most importantly, have fun!

## **BAG'S GROOVE (by Milt Jackson) -- Key of F**

Miles Davis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5x8mW0aUJI>

Milt Jackson with Benny Golson

<https://youtu.be/AKMI3wngqQg>

## **TENOR MADNESS (by Sonny Rollins) - Key of Bb**

Sonny Rollins

<https://youtu.be/3MkUvZUTFUc>

Dexter Gordon

<https://youtu.be/ShCsljfuUw>

## **SONNYMOON FOR TWO (by Sonny Rollins) – Key of Bb**

Sonny Rollins

<https://youtu.be/DXMwHVM113s>

Dexter Gordon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMHjC0ZiRHA>

Joe Pass (in F)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Mj0Aqrreqw>

## **C JAM BLUES (by Duke Ellington) - Key of C**

Duke Ellington w Ray Nance, Rex Stewart, Ben Webster

<https://youtu.be/gOlpcJhNyDI>

Oscar Peterson Trio

<https://youtu.be/NTJhHn-TuDY>

## **BLUE 'N BOOGIE (by Dizzy Gillespie) - Key of Bb**

Charlie Parker & Dizzy Gillespie

<https://youtu.be/ghNT8dXW-Zw>

Roy Haynes w Ted Dunbar, Richard Davis, Cecil Payne, Jimmy Owen's, Lee Konitz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kXWHd0K9OA>

## **NOW'S THE TIME (by Charlie Parker) - Key of F**

Charlie Parker

<https://youtu.be/ryNtmkfeJk4>

JJ Johnson, Sonny Stitt, Howard McGee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W468GVKDZlY>

Happy Listening!