

# BLUES BACK TO BACK

## The Birth of the Blues • Blues in the Night

for S.S.A. voices and piano  
with optional SoundPax and SoundTrax CD\*

Performance time: approx. 5:10

Arranged by  
**KIRBY SHAW**

Easy swing (♩ = ca. 88)

SOPRANO I  
SOPRANO II

ALTO

PIANO

Easy swing (♩ = ca. 88)

N.C. C<sup>9</sup> Ebmaj<sup>7</sup>/F F<sup>9</sup>

*mf*

3 THE BIRTH OF THE BLUES 5

They heard the breeze \_\_\_\_\_ in the trees...

*mf*

They heard the breeze \_\_\_\_\_ in the trees...

Bb<sup>6</sup> Bb/Ab 3 Eb/G 3 Gb F<sup>13</sup> Bb Bdim<sup>7</sup>

*f* *mf*

\* Also available for S.A.T.B. (45514) and S.A.B. (45515). SoundTrax CD available (45517).  
Digital SoundPax available (DIGPX00031) - includes score and set of parts for Tenor Saxophone, 2 Trumpets, Trombone,  
Guitar, Bass, and Drumset. Visit [alfred.com/choral](http://alfred.com/choral) for more information.

Words by B.G. DeSylva and Lew Brown Music by Ray Henderson  
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Sole Selling Agent for This Arrangement: Alfred Music

To purchase a full-length performance recording of this piece, go to [alfred.com/downloads](http://alfred.com/downloads)

6

— sing - in' weird mel - o - dies, — and they

— sing - in' weird mel - o - dies, — and they

Cm7 F7(b13) Bbmaj9 D7 Eb C/E

9

named that the start of the blues.

named that the start of the blues.

F Bb/F F F13 Bb Bb/D Eb Edim7 Bb/F

12 13

And from a jail — came the wail — of a

From a jail, — came the wail —

F13 Edim7/G F7/A Bbmaj9 Bdim7 Cm7 F9(b13)

15

down heart - ed frail, \_\_\_\_\_ and they

of a down \_\_\_\_\_ heart - ed frail, \_\_\_\_\_

Fm7 Bb9 Ebmaj7 C9

17

played that as part of the blues.

and they played that as part of the blues.

F Bb/F F F13 Bb Bb7/D Eb A7 Bb7

20

From a whip-poor-will \_\_\_\_\_ out on a hill \_\_\_\_\_

From a whip-poor-will \_\_\_\_\_ out on a hill \_\_\_\_\_

D9 Eb9

22

they took a new note. Pushed it through a horn—

they took a new note. Pushed it through a horn—

D<sup>9</sup> Eb<sup>9</sup> D<sup>9</sup> Eb<sup>9</sup> D<sup>9</sup> 3 3

25

un - til it was worn in - to a

un - til it was worn in - to a

G<sup>9</sup> Ab<sup>9</sup> G<sup>9</sup> 3 3

27

blue note! And then they nursed it, re -

blue note! And then they nursed it, re -

Bb/C C<sup>9</sup> F<sup>13</sup> Bbmaj<sup>9</sup> Bdim<sup>7</sup>

*f* *mf* 8va

30

hearsed it, and gave out the news that the

hearsed it, and gave out the news that the

Cm7 F+ Fm7 Bb13 Ebmaj9 3 C9

33

blues! —

South - land gave birth to the blues, —

South - land gave birth to the blues, —

F 3 Bb/F 3 F 3 F/Eb 3

35

gave birth to the blues! — They nursed —

gave birth to the blues! —

Dm7(b5) F/G G9

grad. cresc.

grad. cresc.

37

— it, re - hearsed — it,

They nursed — it, re - hearsed — it,

*E<sub>b</sub>* 3 3 3 3 *E<sub>dim</sub>7* 3 3 3 3 *grad. cresc.* 3

39

and gave out the news... that the South-

and gave out the news... that the South-

*B<sub>b</sub>* 3 3 3 3 *C<sup>7</sup>* 3 3 3 3

41

- land — gave birth to the

- land — gave birth to the

*C<sup>7</sup>* 3 3 3 3 *E<sub>b</sub>/F* *F<sup>13</sup>*

43

*f* blues! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* Gave birth to the blues!..

*f* blues! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* Gave birth to the blues!..

B $\flat$  B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$  Edim $^7$  B $\flat$ /F

46

Ab $^7$  A $^7$  B $\flat$  N.C. B $\flat$  $^9$

48

*opt. SOLO mf*

ALTO tacet if SOLO *mf*

My

My

E $\flat$  $^9$  G $\flat$  $^9$  F $^9$  B $\flat$ m $^9$  E $\flat$  $^{13}$

51 BLUES IN THE NIGHT

ma-ma done tol' me \_\_\_\_\_ when I was in pig - tails, \_\_\_\_\_ my

ma-ma done tol' me \_\_\_\_\_ when I was in pig - tails, \_\_\_\_\_ my

N.C. Ab<sup>13</sup> N.C. Db<sup>13</sup>

*f*

53 ma-ma done tol' me, \_\_\_\_\_ Hon! A

ma-ma done tol' me, \_\_\_\_\_ Hon! A

N.C. Ab<sup>13</sup>

*mf*

55 man's gon - na sweet talk, \_\_\_\_\_ and give you the big eye, \_\_\_\_\_

man's gon - na sweet talk, \_\_\_\_\_ and give you the big eye, \_\_\_\_\_

D<sup>7</sup> Gb<sup>13</sup> Gb<sup>7</sup>

Lyrics by Johnny Mercer Music by Harold Arlen  
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57

but when the sweet talk-in's done — a man is a two-face, — a

but when the sweet talk-in's done — a man is a two-face a

Ab<sup>9</sup> Eb<sup>9</sup>

60

wor-ri-some thing who'll leave ya t' sing the blues in the

wor-ri-some thing who'll leave ya t' sing the blues in the

Bb7(b9) Eb7 Ab13

62 (end opt. solo) **mf**

night Now the rain's a fall-in', hear the train a call-in',

night. Now the rain's a fall-in', hear the train a call-in',

Ab<sup>9</sup> Db<sup>9</sup>

65

who - ee, \_\_\_\_\_ my ma - ma done tol' me. \_\_\_\_\_

who - ee, \_\_\_\_\_ my ma - ma done tol' me. \_\_\_\_\_

Ab7 Db/Ab Ab7 Db/Ab Ebm/Ab Db/Ab Ab7

67

Hear that lone - some whis - tle blow - in' cross the tres - tle,

Hear that lone - some whis - tle blow - in' 'cross the tres - tle,

Db9

69

who - ee, \_\_\_\_\_ my ma - ma done tol' me. \_\_\_\_\_ A

who - ee, \_\_\_\_\_ my ma - ma done tol' me. \_\_\_\_\_ A

Ab7 Db/Ab Ab7 Db/Ab Ebm/Ab Db/Ab Ab7

71

whoo-ee-duh-who - ee, — ol' click - i - ty clack's a ech - o - in' back the

whoo-ee-duh-who - ee, — ol' click - i - ty clack's a ech - o - in' back the

*E<sub>b</sub>7* *B<sub>b</sub>7(b9)* *E<sub>b</sub>13(#9)* *E<sub>b</sub>7*

73

blues \_\_\_\_\_ in the night. The eve-nin' breeze - 'll start the

blues \_\_\_\_\_ in the night. The eve-nin' breeze - 'll start the

*A<sub>b</sub>7* *D<sub>b</sub>/A<sub>b</sub>* *A<sub>b</sub>7* *D<sub>b</sub>/A<sub>b</sub>* *E<sub>b</sub>m/A<sub>b</sub>* *D<sub>b</sub>(A<sub>b</sub> A<sub>b</sub>)* *8<sup>va</sup>* *A<sub>b</sub>m<sup>9</sup>* *D<sub>b</sub><sup>9</sup>*

76

trees to cry - in' and the moon 'll hide its light, \_\_\_\_\_

trees to cry - in' and the moon 'll hide its light, \_\_\_\_\_

*B<sub>b</sub>m<sup>7</sup>(b5)* *E<sub>b</sub><sup>9</sup>* *F<sub>#</sub>m<sup>7</sup>* *B<sup>7</sup>(b9)* *E<sub>m</sub>a<sub>7</sub><sup>9</sup>* *E<sub>b</sub><sup>6</sup>*

79

when you get the blues \_\_\_\_\_ in the night. \_\_\_\_\_

when you get the blues \_\_\_\_\_ in the night. \_\_\_\_\_

Cm7(b5) F7(b9) F7 Bb9 3 Db/Eb Bbm9 3

82

83

Take my word, the mock-in'-bird - 'll sing the

Take my word, the mock-in'-bird - 'll sing the

Dbmaj7/Eb Eb13 Eb9 Abm9 D9 Bbm7(b5) Eb9

85

sad - dest kind \_\_\_\_\_ of song, \_\_\_\_\_

sad - dest kind \_\_\_\_\_ of song, \_\_\_\_\_

F#m9 B7(b9) Emaj9 E6

87

he knows things are wrong \_\_\_\_\_ and he's right.

he knows things are wrong \_\_\_\_\_ and he's right.

Cm7(b5) F7(b9) Bb9 Db/Eb Bbm9

90

**f** [91] 3

From Nat-chez to Mo - bile, \_\_\_\_\_ from

**f** 3

From Nat-chez to Mo - bile, \_\_\_\_\_ from

Eb13 Ab Bbm/Ab Ab7

**f** 3 3 3 3

92

Mem - phis to Saint Joe, \_\_\_\_\_ wher - ev - er the four winds, \_\_\_\_\_

Mem - phis to Saint Joe, \_\_\_\_\_ wher - ev - er the four winds,

Abm/Db Bbm/Db Cb/Db Ab Db/Ab Ab7 Bbm/Ab

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

blow.

94

four winds blow. I been in some big towns an'

four winds blow. I been in some big towns an'

Ab<sup>13</sup> A<sup>13</sup> Ab<sup>13</sup> Db Ebm/Db Db<sup>7</sup>

96

heard me some big talk, but there is one thing I know,

heard me some big talk, but there is one thing I know,

G<sup>b</sup> Abm/G<sup>b</sup> G<sup>b</sup> Ab Bbm<sup>7</sup> Cm<sup>7</sup>

98

99

a man is a two - face, a

a man is a two - face, a

F<sup>7</sup> Eb<sup>7</sup>

100

wor-ri-some thing who'll leave ya t' sing the blues \_\_\_\_\_ in the

wor-ri-some thing who'll leave ya t' sing the blues \_\_\_\_\_ in the

Bb7(b9) Eb7(#9) Eb7(b9) Ab Bbm/Ab Abm7 Bbm/Ab

102

night. *mf* My

night. *mf* My

Ab Bbm/Ab Ab N.C. Ab13 N.C. Db13

105

*Slowly* ma-ma was right, there's blues \_\_\_\_\_ in the night.

*Slowly* ma-ma was right, there's blues \_\_\_\_\_ in the night.

Bb13 Bb7(b13) Eb7(#9) Eb7(b13) N.C. Ab13