



Chicago (Has Got Everything You Need)

by Professor Fernando Jones, Columbia College Chicago

Overview

This hands-on lesson is designed to effectively teach the 12-bar Blues pattern through the lens of Chicago via the pairing of the call-and-response (voice) and “C” harmonica. As a team building exercise Learners will role play as “Blues” characters.

Expectations

Chicago has many crown jewels and the Blues is its ambassadorial tool of goodwill to the world. Through lyrics this great city will be toured. All Learners will participate by singing, clapping, and playing their harmonicas in an interactive settings.

Learning Objectives

After listening to the sound recording of “Chicago (Has Got Everything You need)” Learners will be able to:

- Analyze and discuss lyrics of the song
- Make the connection between the song and popular tourist attractions of the city
- Recognize the 12-bar Blues pattern and AAB (call-and-response)
- Recognize the instrument used in the recording
- Recognize similes and metaphors used to reference the city’s attributes
- Perform the song by singing and playing the harmonica



Materials Needed

- Chicago (Has Got Everything You Need) CD
- “I Was There When The Blues Was Red Hot”
- “C” Harmonicas
- Song Lyrics
- CD player

The Lesson

Have Learners share images that come to mind when they think of Chicago. Can they name songs with “Chicago” as a theme? Write remarks on the board. Then add a verse from “Chicago (Has Got Everything You Need)” by Fernando Jones. Projectors and monitors can be used for exemplars.

Chicago has got everything you need.

I said, ‘Chicago has got everything you need.

We’ve got a great lake and gold plated streets.

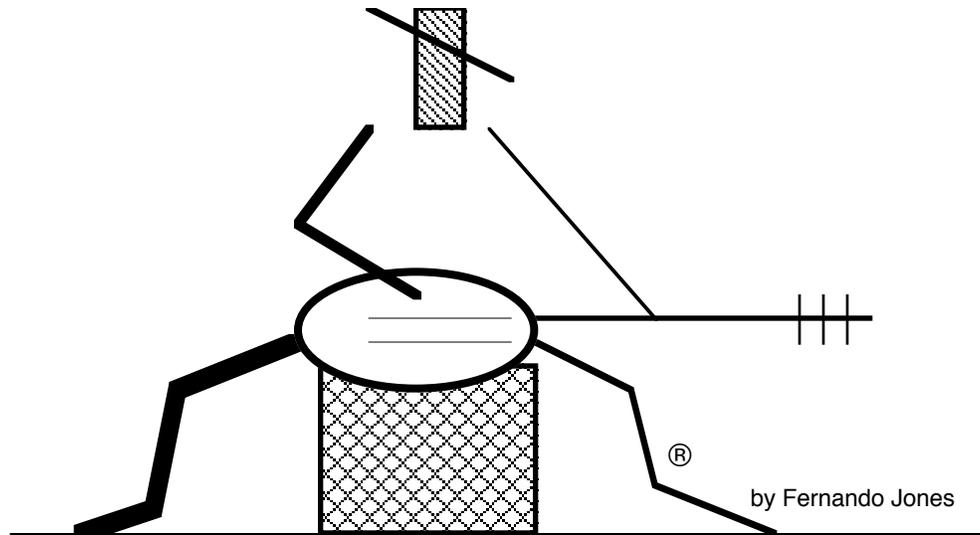
Explain that songs are simply poems set to music. Ask students to name some of the championship teams and popular pro players in Chicago and list them on the board. While listening to the CD, have Learners write out metaphors and similes in the song in their notebooks. Have the Learners use the log sheet to collect data.

Get Learners to sing/answer the call lines to demonstrate to power of a catchy song and the call-and-response pattern.

When finished, break Learners in groups of 3 - 4 and have them write and sing additional verse to the song based on information they already know about Chicago (such as the Chicago Bulls, Oprah, skyscrapers, etceteras) using the instrumental track.

As a treat, have Learners use the Internet to search for other popular songs with “Chi-Town” as a focus.

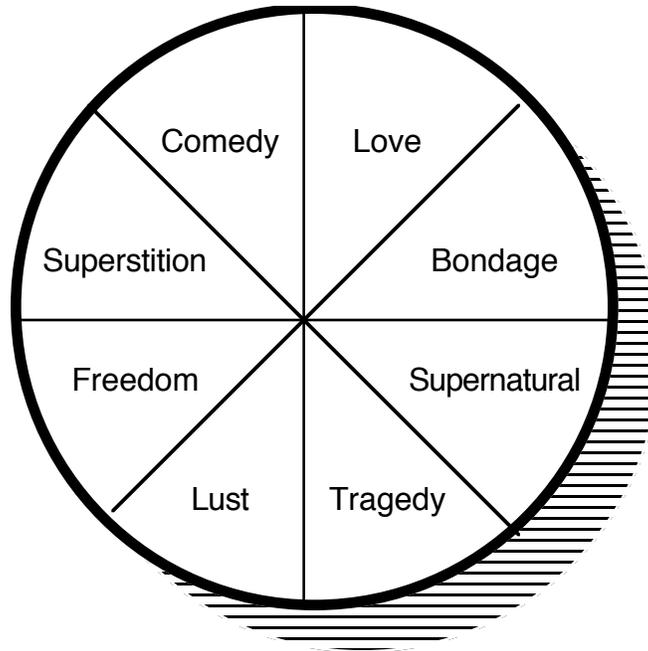




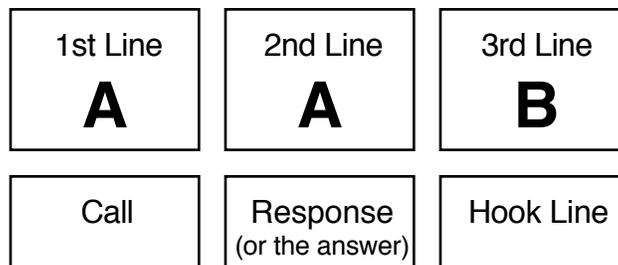
Rooted in the African tradition of call-and-response, the Blues, mother and father of Jazz, Rock & Roll, Rhythm & Blues, Gospel, and even Hip-hop music, is an indigenous African American art form. It's also a cultural institution filled with volumes of autobiographical, economical, sociological, and historical information expressed through the arts in disciplines such as, but not limited to music, literature, dance, and theater. In brief, it's a documentary of Black America.

Musically, for more than seventy-five years, the Blues has been an ambassadorial tool of goodwill from America to the world. Culturally, it's been embraced and consumed globally just like McDonald's hamburgers and Coca-Cola have been. Some scholars have considered the Blues to be an artistic phenomenon due to its uncanny ability to transcend and address controversial issues such as race, class, gender, politics, and even socio-economics.

Woven into the fabric of this country, this art form is nothing short of an in-depth autobiography documenting America. Though created on southern plantations by enslaved Africans and their descendants through moans, groans, street cries, ring shouts, and field hollers induced by circumstances and conditions, each generation continually redefines this music and culture. Blues songs generally tell complete stories in just three verses exposing one's truths, tragedies, triumphs, and their trials & tribulations. Here is a chart with basic song themes. Use this chart to make up songs of your own.



One of the fundamentals of Blues music is the call-and-response. Though an Africanism, call-and-response can be found in everything from nursery rhymes to Country & Western music. Harvard University Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. said this in a December 12, 1996 *New York Times* article written by Dinitia Smith: "Embedded in all aspects of this oral tradition is the pattern of call-and-response. It is the structural principle of worship, the unbroken center of secular and sacred forms. It's never not been there." Below is a sample of the call-and-response using the AAB structure. Example: *The Blues Spares None* by Fernando Jones.



- (A) The Call (person 1)
I tumble like a tumbleweed, and roll like a rollin' stone.
- (A) Response (repeat by the group)
Hey, I tumble like a tumbleweed, and roll like a rollin' stone.
- (B) Hook Line (everybody together)
*You'll never see, see me crumble.
 And you'll never know the Blues I've known.*

Chicago (Has Got Everything You Need)

Words & music by Fernando Jones 6/8/98
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Chicago's got everything you need.
I said, 'Chicago's got everything you need.'
We've got a Great Lake and gold plated streets.

We've got hot dogs and championship teams.
I said, 'we've got Soul food and championship teams.'
We're the city that works with a skyline that's mean.'

We've got theaters / and / movie shows.
For a couple of bucks / go where you wanna go.
I said, 'Chicago's got everything you need.'
We've got a Great Lake and gold plated streets.'

Whenever I need a reason / a reason to smile.
I said, 'Whenever I need a reason / a reason to smile
I go window shoppin' on the Magnificent Mile.'

Chicago's got everything you need.
I said, 'Chicago's got everything you need.'
We've got a Great Lake and gold plated streets.'

Chicago's always got somethin' for you.
Chicago's always got somethin' new.
Chicago's the heart of the Blues.