

# "Mississippi Blues"

Composed By: Willie Brown

Transcribed by: Steve J. McWilliam - 1973

TablEdited by: Steve J. McWilliam - 1999

System 1: Treble clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), 12/8 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers (4, 5, 6, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5) and a string order diagram (E, B, G, D, A, E).

System 2: Treble clef, key signature of three sharps, 12/8 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line and a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers (7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 6, 7, 5, 5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 5, 4, 3, 4, 2, 2, 3, 4) and a string order diagram (T, A, B).

System 3: Treble clef, key signature of three sharps, 12/8 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line and a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers (5, 5, 5, 4, 4, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 0, 2, 3) and a string order diagram (T, A, B).

Musical notation for measures 10-12. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff shows guitar fretting for Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) positions.

10

T	4	0	3	0	H	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	0	3	0	0	3	2	3	1	0
A																								
B	6	4	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	2	1	2	1	0	3	0	0	3	2	4	3	2

Musical notation for measures 13-15. The top staff continues the melody with eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff shows guitar fretting for Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) positions.

13

T	2	3	0	4	5	6	7	5	5	7	5	5	4	5	6
A															
B	0	2	2	0	4	5	6	0	0	6	6	0	6	6	0

Musical notation for measures 16-18. The top staff continues the melody with eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff shows guitar fretting for Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) positions.

16

T	7	5	5	7	5	5	5	4	2	2	3	4				
A																
B	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	2	3	4	5	3	2	3	4	5

Musical notation for measures 19-21. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff is a guitar fretboard with strings T, A, and B labeled. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Measure 19 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The guitar part for measure 19 has fret numbers 5, 5, 5, 4, 3, 4, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 5, 5, 0, 2, 3. Measure 20 has fret numbers 6, 7, 5, 5, 6, 7, 5, 5, 0, 2, 3. Measure 21 has fret numbers 6, 7, 5, 5, 0, 2, 3.

Musical notation for measures 22-23. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff is a guitar fretboard with strings T, A, and B labeled. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Measure 22 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The guitar part for measure 22 has fret numbers 4, 0, 3, 0, 0, 1, 0, 2, 1, 3, 1, 2, 0, 2, 1, 2, 1, 0, 3, 0. Measure 23 has fret numbers 1, 2, 0, 2, 1, 2, 1, 0, 3, 0.

Musical notation for measures 24-25. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff is a guitar fretboard with strings T, A, and B labeled. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Measure 24 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The guitar part for measure 24 has fret numbers 2, 2, 3, 1, 2, 0, 2, 3, 0, 2, 4, 5. Measure 25 has fret numbers 2, 3, 0, 2, 0, 4, 5.



32

8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9

T  
A  
B

7 7 9 9 7 7 0 0 0 9 9 7 7 9 7

Detailed description: This system contains measures 32 and 33. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It features a melodic line with eighth-note chords and a bass line with quarter notes. The guitar tablature below shows fret numbers for strings T, A, and B. Measures 32-33 consist of 12 measures each, with fret numbers ranging from 7 to 10.

34

9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 3 4 0 3 0 H 0

T  
A  
B

7 7 9 9 7 7 0 4 0 2 0 1 3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 34 and 35. The top staff continues the melodic and bass lines. Measure 34 has 12 measures, and measure 35 has 12 measures. The guitar tablature includes fret numbers up to 9, a '3' for a triplet, a '4' for a fourth, and an 'H' for a hammer-on. The bottom staff shows fret numbers up to 4.

36

1 0 2 1 2 1 0 3 0 2 3 1 2 0 2 3 0 2 3 0 4 5

T  
A  
B

2 0 2 2 0 3 0 0 3 2 4 3 2 0 0 2 2 0 4 5

Detailed description: This system contains measures 36 and 37. The top staff continues the melodic and bass lines. Measure 36 has 12 measures, and measure 37 has 12 measures. The guitar tablature includes fret numbers up to 5, a '1/4' note symbol, and a '3' with a slur for a triplet. The bottom staff shows fret numbers up to 5.

Musical notation for measures 39-41. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The bottom staff shows bass clef notes. Measure 39 starts with a treble clef note on G#4 and a bass clef note on G2. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes.

Guitar tablature for measures 39-41. The strings are labeled T (top), A, and B (bottom). Measure 39 starts with a 6 on the B string and an open string on the A string. The sequence of frets is 6, 7, 5, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 4, 5, 6, 7, 5, 5, 5, 7.

Musical notation for measures 42-44. The top staff continues the melody with eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff shows bass clef notes. Measure 42 starts with a treble clef note on G#4 and a bass clef note on G2.

Guitar tablature for measures 42-44. The strings are labeled T, A, and B. Measure 42 starts with a 6 on the B string and an open string on the A string. The sequence of frets is 6, 5, 5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 5, 4, 3, 4, 2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 5, 4, 3, 4, 2, 4, 5.

Musical notation for measures 45-47. The top staff continues the melody with eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff shows bass clef notes. Measure 45 starts with a treble clef note on G#4 and a bass clef note on G2.

Guitar tablature for measures 45-47. The strings are labeled T, A, and B. Measure 45 starts with a 6 on the B string and an open string on the A string. The sequence of frets is 6, 7, 5, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 0, 2, 3, 4, 4, 0, 3, 4, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1.

Musical notation for measures 48-50. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff shows guitar fretting for strings T, A, and B. Measure 48: T (1, 2, 0), A (2, 1), B (2, 1, 0). Measure 49: T (2, 3, 1), A (2, 0), B (2, 3, 0). Measure 50: T (2, 3, 0), A (2, 2), B (0, 2, 0, 4, 5).

48

T  
A  
B

Musical notation for measures 51-53. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff shows guitar fretting for strings T, A, and B. Measure 51: T (7, 5, 5, 7), A (6, 5, 6), B (0, 0, 0). Measure 52: T (5, 5, 7), A (6, 5, 6), B (0, 0, 0). Measure 53: T (7, 5, 5, 7), A (6, 7, 5, 6), B (0, 0, 0).

51

T  
A  
B

Musical notation for measures 54-56. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff shows guitar fretting for strings T, A, and B. Measure 54: T (5, 5), A (6, 7), B (0, 0). Measure 55: T (5, 5, 4, 3, 4, 2), A (2, 3, 4), B (3, 4, 5). Measure 56: T (5, 5, 4, 3, 4, 2), A (2, 3, 4), B (5, 5, 3, 2, 0, 4, 5).

54

T  
A  
B





Musical notation for measures 62 and 63. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of eighth notes in a descending sequence: G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The bass line consists of eighth notes: G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1.

64

TAB notation for measures 64 and 65. The strings are labeled T (Top), A (Middle), and B (Bottom). Measure 64: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 65: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 66: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 67: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 68: T (10, 10), A (0), B (0). Measure 69: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 70: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 71: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 72: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9).

Musical notation for measures 66 and 67. The melody continues with eighth notes: G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The bass line continues with eighth notes: G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1.

66

TAB notation for measures 66 and 67. The strings are labeled T (Top), A (Middle), and B (Bottom). Measure 66: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 67: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 68: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 69: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 70: T (8, 10), A (0), B (0). Measure 71: T (8, 10), A (0), B (0). Measure 72: T (8, 8), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 73: T (8, 8), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 74: T (8, 8), A (7), B (9, 9).

Musical notation for measures 68 and 69. The melody continues with eighth notes: G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The bass line continues with eighth notes: G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1.

68

TAB notation for measures 68 and 69. The strings are labeled T (Top), A (Middle), and B (Bottom). Measure 68: T (8, 10), A (0), B (9, 9). Measure 69: T (8, 10), A (0), B (9, 9). Measure 70: T (8, 8), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 71: T (8, 8), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 72: T (9, 10), A (0), B (0). Measure 73: T (9, 10), A (0), B (0). Measure 74: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 75: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 76: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9). Measure 77: T (9, 10), A (7), B (9, 9).

70

70

T  
A  
B

9 9 10 9 0 0 9 0 0 0 H 0 B 0 0

7 7 9 9 7 7 9 7 7 0 1 2 0 0

Detailed description: This system contains measures 70 and 71. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature for three strings (T, A, B). Measure 70 has fret numbers 9, 9, 10, 9, 0, 0, 9, 0, 0, 0, H, 0, B, 0, 0. Measure 71 has fret numbers 7, 7, 9, 9, 7, 7, 9, 7, 7, 0, 1, 2, 0, 0. The 'H' and 'B' indicate a harmonic and a bend, respectively.

72

72

T  
A  
B

1 2 0 2 1 2 1 0 3 0 2 3 1 2 0 0 0 B 0 0 4 5

2 2 0 2 1 2 1 0 3 0 0 3 2 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Detailed description: This system contains measures 72 and 73. The top staff continues the melody. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature. Measure 72 has fret numbers 1, 2, 0, 2, 1, 2, 1, 0, 3, 0, 2, 3, 1, 2, 0, 0, 0, B, 0, 0, 4, 5. Measure 73 has fret numbers 2, 2, 0, 2, 1, 2, 1, 0, 3, 0, 0, 3, 2, 1, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0. A quarter rest is indicated by a 1/4 symbol above the 10th fret on the B string in measure 72.

75

75

T  
A  
B

7 5 5 7 5 5 7 5 5 7 5 5 7 5 5 7

6 0 6 0 5 6 6 0 4 5 6 0 6 0 6 0 5 6 0 0

Detailed description: This system contains measures 75 and 76. The top staff continues the melody. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature. Measure 75 has fret numbers 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7. Measure 76 has fret numbers 6, 0, 6, 0, 5, 6, 6, 0, 4, 5, 6, 0, 6, 0, 6, 0, 5, 6, 0, 0.

Musical notation for measures 75-77. The system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet. The bass staff contains a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

78

T	5	5		5	5	4	3	4	2	2	3	4	5	5	5	4	3	4	2	4	5
A	6	7	5																		
B	0	0	0	3	4	5	5	3	2	3	4	5	5	3	2	0					

Musical notation for measures 78-80. The system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff contains a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

81

T	7	5	5	7	5	5	0	2	3	4	0	3	0	0
A	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	4	3	2	1	3		
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Musical notation for measures 81-83. The system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff contains a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

84

T	1	0	2	1	0	3	0	2	3	1	0	2	3	0	
A	2	2	1	2	1	0	3	2	4	3	2	0	2	3	
B	2	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	2	0

87

0/9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9

T  
A  
B

Detailed description: This system contains measures 87 and 88. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 12/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with three lines labeled T, A, and B. It features a 0/9 barre at the start of measure 87, followed by various fret numbers (0, 7, 9) and rhythmic markings.

89

9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 8 8 7 7

T  
A  
B

Detailed description: This system contains measures 89, 90, and 91. The notation continues with the same treble clef and key signature. The guitar TAB includes fret numbers 9, 8, 7 and rhythmic markings. Measure 91 ends with a double bar line.

92

8 8 7 7 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9

T  
A  
B

Detailed description: This system contains measures 92, 93, and 94. The notation continues with the same treble clef and key signature. The guitar TAB includes fret numbers 8, 7, 9 and rhythmic markings. Measure 94 ends with a double bar line.

Musical notation for measures 95-97. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff shows bass clef chords. Measure 95 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets and slurs.

95

T	4	4	0	0	0	3	3	4	0	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	0	3	0	2	3	1	0
A	4	4	0	0	0	3	3	4	0	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	0	3	0	2	3	1	0
B	4	4	0	0	0	3	3	4	0	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	0	3	0	2	3	1	0

Musical notation for measures 98-100. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff shows bass clef chords. Measure 98 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets and slurs.

98

T	2	3	0	0	4	5	6	7	5	5	7	5	5	6	6	7	5	5	4	5	6
A	2	3	0	0	4	5	6	7	5	5	7	5	5	6	6	7	5	5	4	5	6
B	2	3	0	0	4	5	6	7	5	5	7	5	5	6	6	7	5	5	4	5	6

Musical notation for measures 101-103. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff shows bass clef chords. Measure 101 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets and slurs.

101

T	7	5	5	7	5	5	6	3	4	5	5	5	4	3	4	2	2	3	4
A	7	5	5	7	5	5	6	3	4	5	5	5	4	3	4	2	2	3	4
B	7	5	5	7	5	5	6	3	4	5	5	5	4	3	4	2	2	3	4

Musical notation for measures 104-106. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff shows guitar tablature with fret numbers and string indicators (T, A, B).

104

T	5	5	4	3	4	2	4	5	6	7	5	5	7	5	5	0	2	3
A																		
B	5	3	2			0			6	0		5	6	0		6	0	

Musical notation for measures 107-109. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff shows guitar tablature with fret numbers and string indicators (T, A, B).

107

T	4	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	3	1	0	2	3	1	0
A																		
B	6	4	2		0	1		2	1	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	3	2

Musical notation for measure 110. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bottom staff shows guitar tablature with fret numbers and string indicators (T, A, B).

110

T			0	3			
A	2		3	3			
B	0	0	2	0	3		

Mississippi Blues - Composed By: Willie Brown - circa 1920

Transcribed By: Steve J. McWilliam - 1973

Tabbed In TablEdit By: Steve J. McWilliam - 1999

This tune was originally transcribed from the Willie Brown recording by Aurora "Rory" Block and was popularised amongst modern acoustic guitarists by Stefan Grossman who has made many recordings of it, including one with Rory Block on the original "How To Play Blues" vinyl LP record put out on the XTRA label (a subsidiary of TansAtlantic).

It has become one of the pieces which an acoustic guitarist with any blues tunes in his or her repertoire MUST be able to play - a sort of test piece and one which is often used to allow everyone to play together. Most players have their own 'version' of it with slight, or sometimes large, changes to the basic tune.

This arrangement combines aspects of Aurora Block's arrangement with those of Willie Brown, myself (Steve J. McWilliam), Kieran Fish, Joe Cainen, Mike Martin, Lyle Bradshaw (and many other guitarists who have passed through my life). Many thanks to Rory for the original transcription and to Stefan for making the tune readily available in books and on record and CD.

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