

Boogie-Woogie and The Blues

by

Andrew D. Gordon

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About This Book

This book is dedicated to all the great Blues and Boogie-Woogie pianists I have had the privilege of listening to over the last 40 years. My first recollection of being inspired to learn Blues piano was in 1968 when I heard the Blues piano solo by Nicky Hopkins on the song "Blues Deluxe" from Jeff Beck's first album "Truth" Just as that piano solo inspired me, in turn I hope these songs inspire you in the same way. I remember purchasing two Blues music books from a music store in London around 1969 and spending many wonderful hours, days, weeks and months learning how to play the Blues.

There are nine songs in this book which I composed ranging from the slow Blues of H.R. Blues to the up-tempo Boogie-Woogie of Holly and Ben's Boogie as well as the Ragtime feel of Raggedy Blues. Beside learning from this book it is important to listen to the masters of Blues and Boogie-Woogie piano styles, a discography on page 62 will get you started.

Boogie Woogie and Blues Piano

Boogie-Woogie is a style of Blues piano music that is generally up-tempo and became popular in the 1930's and 1940's. As with Blues, Boogie-Woogie has a repetitive bass line played by the left hand and is transposed according to the chord changes of the 12 Bar Blues progression. Boogie-Woogie piano styles led to the development of Rock and Roll piano styles by such famous pianists as Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis.

Audio CD and MIDI files

The audio CD that accompanies this book contains high quality solo piano recordings of each of the nine songs in the book at the correct tempo. These songs are of an intermediate to advanced level. **MIDI files** of all the songs are available separately from the publishers web site <http://www.adgproductions.com>, search "Boogie-Woogie and The Blues" or ADG148.

The benefits of using the MIDI files are as follows:

Mute the right hand or left hand track and play the muted track live while the sequencing program is playing the other part. Control the tempo to your skill level. As your skill level progresses, increase the tempo. Transpose the key of the riff using the transpose setting in the sequencer. Practice the songs in keys other than what they were written in. Ear training exercises. Listen to one track at a time at a slow tempo and try to pick out the notes by ear and only referring to the book when in doubt. The looping function of the sequencer will allow you to practice a certain section, whether it is one measure or a number of measures, repeatedly.

Junk Mail Blues

Uptempo Blues

Composed & Arranged by
Andrew D. Gordon

CD track 1

♩ = 130_C

G7

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a series of chords and melodic lines. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line with eighth and quarter notes. A 'G7' chord symbol is placed above the right side of the system.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melodic and harmonic material from the first system. The lower staff continues the bass line. A large, faint watermark is visible in the background.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff begins with a 'C' chord symbol above the first measure. The lower staff continues the bass line. The watermark is still present.

The fourth system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff has 'F7' and 'C' chord symbols above it. The lower staff continues the bass line. The watermark is still present.

The fifth system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff has 'D', 'G', and 'C' chord symbols above it. The lower staff continues the bass line. The watermark is still present.

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