



TRANSCRIPT – THE BLUES: THE VIDEO

Blues is a musical form that came from the African Americans in the the South of the USA in states like Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. It comes from spiritual music, work songs and folk traditions of the black slaves.

To have 'the blues' means to be sad or depressed and the lyrics of the songs often show that feeling. Themes include lost love, no money, no job, oppression or all of these together. The sound of blues is special because it is a simple sequence of chords that is repeated four times and a special note called the 'blues note' gives it a unique sound.

Blues music began at the end of the 19th century in places like Clarksdale, Mississippi. This is the home of the 'Delta Blues'. You can still go there to listen to authentic blues music at the best blues club in the USA, Ground Zero. Clarksdale is also where, in blues mythology and folklore, the famous blues player Robert Johnson sold his soul to the devil to achieve success at the Crossroads.

When it became popular, blues spread to big cities like Memphis, St. Louis, and Chicago. Famous artists include Robert Johnson, John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Taj Mahal and BB King. They sang and played the guitar. The guitar is the main instrument of blues but there can be other instruments like the drums, the saxophone or the harmonica among others. Blues has had a big impact on modern music. Jazz music and rock evolved from blues.

Blues influenced American musicians like Elvis Presley, Tina Turner, Chuck Berry or Bob Dylan. In Great Britain, it inspired many groups and artists like the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin and Eric Clapton. This is known as 'blues rock'. Nowadays, many musicians still use the blues in

their music and you can still see traditional blues music in festivals around the world.