

# *Blues Cats Recorder*

## *Recorder Collection*

*Brad Keller & Bonnie Rossa*

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ISBN Number: 978-1-927062-21-0

Editing by Denise Gagne

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# INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the *Blues Cats Recorder Collection*. We are sure this collection will excite and motivate your students. The songs are all blues forms ranging in style from the Swing era of the 1930s - 1940s to Heavy Metal Rock. The songs work equally well with recorder, any barred Orff instrument, as well as any other melodic instrument.

The melodies are geared toward beginning students, but more advanced students will enjoy playing the melodies and soloing to the accompaniment tracks. Each song includes lyrics that can be used in conjunction with, or in place of the recorders. The lyrics will make it quicker and easier for students to internalize the sometimes challenging rhythms of the melodies.

MELODY NOTES	
Songs 1-2	F, A, B
Songs 3-4	E, G, A, B
Songs 5-7	G, A, B, C'
Song 8	E, G, A, Bb, B

Songs 5, 7 and 8 employ the common straight eighth note rhythmic groove of rock. Songs 1-4 and 6 are composed with swing/shuffle rhythms of jazz and blues.

The written eighth notes are performed as . Notice the accent on the second eighth note. This accent on the upbeat, instead of on the downbeat, is one of the unique characteristics of jazz and blues. We suggest checking out our **JAMMIN' WITH THE JAZZ CATS Orff Improvisation Book** for a detailed explanation of swing/shuffle rhythm, including CD tracks for practicing common swing/shuffle rhythms used for soloing.

Each song contains an improvisation (solo) section with *Beginner level* and *Advanced level* note choices. The *Beginner level* uses only the notes required to play the melody, while the *Advanced level* utilizes variations of the Minor Blues

The solo sections include an optional background melody which may be used with or in place of solos.

**MINOR BLUES SCALE**  
Root,  $\flat 3$ , 4,  $\flat 5$ , 5,  $\flat 7$ , occasionally 2  
*Example "A" Minor Blues scale*  
A, C, D,  $D^{\flat}$ , E, G, occasionally B

For each song on the CD, the *Performance* audio is divided into multiple tracks to facilitate teaching and practicing the different sections of the song. Each song's *Performance* tracks play through without interruption between tracks.

**Example:** Track1 A section Track2 B section Track3 Solo section Track4 Rest of the song

In addition, the *Performance* tracks include a professional solo to motivate and inspire young soloists. You and your students will be compelled to grab your recorders and **Rock Out!!**

***The Jazz & Blues Cats***  
*Bonnie Rossa & Brad Keller*

Our deepest appreciation to Denise Gagne and everyone at  
***Themes and Variations*** and to all the musicians who  
contributed their immense talents.

***Musicians:***  
Mario LaCasse ... Guitars  
Jean Bolduc ... Drums  
Bonnie Rossa ... Recorder, Flute  
Brad Keller ... Keyboards, Arrangements

NATIONAL MUSIC STANDARDS	
STANDARD 2	Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
STANDARD 3	Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments

## **BLUES CATS RECORDER TRACK LIST**

The *Performance* version of each song on this CD has been divided into sections to make it easy to rehearse just one section of the piece. Each *Performance* version has between 3 to 5 separate tracks. However, there will be no break between the tracks, so the entire *Performance* is heard in its entirety. The different track numbers appear at the appropriate places in the sheet music.

*EXAMPLE* Song 1: *Cats Meow Performance* is divided into three tracks. If you wish to practice just the second section you can find and play the track that contains the section you want (in this case track 2). When you are ready to play the song through, tracks 1, 2 and 3 will play without pauses. There is, of course, a pause between each song.

<b>CD TRACK(s)</b>	<b>SONG #: NAME</b>
Tracks 1-3	Song 1: <i>Cats' Meow Performance</i>
Tracks 4-7	Song 2: <i>Groove's in the BAG Performance</i>
Tracks 8-10	Song 3: <i>Blue Moon Rising Performance</i>
Tracks 11-14	Song 4: <i>Cat Mandoo Performance</i>
Tracks 15-18	Song 5: <i>Rockin' Blues Cat Performance</i>
Tracks 19-21	Song 6: <i>Tom Cat Blues Performance</i>
Tracks 22-26	Song 7: <i>Heavy Metal Kitty Performance</i>
Tracks 27-30	Song 8: <i>Blues Mojo Performance</i>
Track 31	Song 1: <i>Cats' Meow Accompaniment</i>
Track 32	Song 2: <i>Groove's in the BAG Accompaniment</i>
Track 33	Song 3: <i>Blue Moon Rising Accompaniment</i>
Track 34	Song 4: <i>Cat Mandoo Accompaniment</i>
Track 35	Song 5: <i>Rockin' Blues Cat Accompaniment</i>
Track 36	Song 6: <i>Tom Cat Blues Accompaniment</i>
Track 37	Song 7: <i>Heavy Metal Kitty Accompaniment</i>
Track 38	Song 8: <i>Blues Mojo Accompaniment</i>

# 1. *Cats' Meow* **G A B**

STUDENT Music Pages 6 - 7    TEACHER Music Pages 8 - 9

## STUDENT Note Choices

Beginner soloist:        *G A B*

Advanced soloist:        *D E G A B<sup>b</sup> B D' E'*

CD *Performance* TRACKS (Tracks 1 - 3 play without a pause between tracks)


**Introduction**, Section **A1**, Section **A2** ..... *CD TRACK 1*

Section **Solos B1**, Section **Solos B2** ..... *CD TRACK 2*

Section **C**, Section **A3**, Section **A4** ..... *CD TRACK 3*

CD *Accompaniment* TRACK ..... *CD TRACK 31*

## LESSON NOTES

- ❖ *Cats' Meow* is a minor blues in the style of 1930s - 1940s swing era jazz.
- ❖ The written eighth notes are actually played as a quarter note/eighth note triplet with an accent on the eighth note 
- ❖ Scat syllables are an effective way of teaching swing accents and rhythm. We limit the scat syllables to *doo* for the downbeat and *bah* for the upbeat. The softer *doo* and louder *bah* help internalize the unique upbeat accent of jazz and blues.

EXAMPLE:  *do-bah doo-bah doo-bah doo-bah*

- 🎧 Play *Performance* tracks 1-3 – students sing the scat syllables in italics. It is important to include this step because the inherent limitations of student recorders make it difficult to perform the upbeat accent. Orff mallet instruments are an option as accenting is easier. *A4 Lyrics are more advanced.*
- ❖ Beginning soloists can perform effective solos using only the melody notes *G A B*.
  - 🎧 Play *Accompaniment* track 31 – teacher pats various rhythms, students echo on only one pitch. (Begin with rhythms from the melody.)
  - 🎧 Play *Accompaniment* track 31 – teacher pats various rhythms, students echo improvising pitches. (ALWAYS keep the steady beat groove.)
  - 🎧 Play *Accompaniment* track 31 – teacher chooses different pitches, students improvise rhythms.
- ❖ Advanced soloists may use the *E Minor Blues Scale* with all of the harmonies. The scale includes all of the *blues notes* that are unique to jazz/blues melodies.

E    G    A    B<sup>b</sup>    B    D  
Root **b3**    4    **b5**    5    **b7** (*Blues notes are bold*)

# 1. Cats' Meow

In the style of Swing era minor blues

Beginner scale: G A B

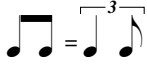
Advanced scale: D E G A Bb B D' E'

## CD Tracks Performance 1-3 Accompaniment 31

Keller/Rossa

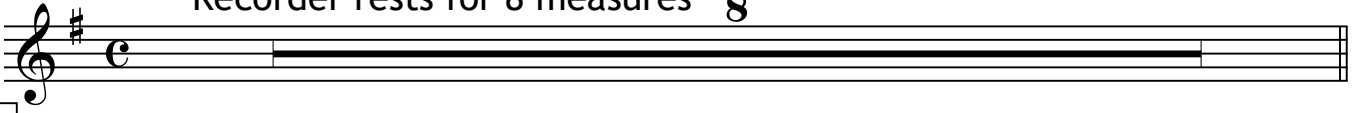
Track 1

Intro 1



Recorder rests for 8 measures 8

Recorder



A1 A2

(meas. 9)



*mf* Cruis - in' down the av - e - nue look - in' for the cats. \_\_\_  
Sud - den - ly I hear the band on a hot tin roof. \_\_\_

Swing Rhythm

Doo doo doo bah doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah bah. \_\_\_



Need to hear some blue - sy sounds, makes me want to dance. \_\_\_  
Climb the stair - case to the top. Try to look a - loof. \_\_\_

Doo doo doo bah doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah bah. \_\_\_ Repeat

(go to meas. 9)



Look - in' cool in a tux - e - do, spats and top hat.  
Soar - ing sax - es, scream - in' trom - bones. long slide trom - bones.

Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah.

Track 2

Solos B1 B2

E m7

Scales for Improvisation Beginner scale: G A B ~ Advanced scale: (Low)D E G A Bb B D' E'

(meas. 21) Optional background for solos



Wow! Cats' Me - ow! Swing danc -  
Wow! Cats' Me - ow! Tux and  
Doo. Doo doo doo. Doo doo

A m7

E m7



ing tails. it's my thing. Jump - in'  
Big band wails! For - mal  
Doo. Doo doo doo. Doo doo

F#m7(b5)

B aug7

E m7

E m7/D

E m7/C B aug7

Repeat

(go to meas. 21)



beat, so cool you feel the heat.  
gowns. Like it's nine - teen for - ty.  
Doo. Doo doo doo doo doo bah.

# Cats' Meow

Track 3

C

(End Solos)

33

Pi - an - o man knows how to swing.  
Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah.

37

Ev - en bad dogs be - gin to sing.  
Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah.

Intro 2

Recorder rests for 4 measures 4

41

A3 A4

(meas. 45)

45

*mf* Blue - sy big band's swing - in' beat, that's the cats' me - ow! \_\_\_\_  
Doo doo doo bah doo bah dit. Doo doo doo bah dah. \_\_\_\_  
Doo doo doo bah doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah bah. \_\_\_\_

49

Jit - ter - bug - gin' on the floor, cool cats swing dance now! \_\_\_\_  
Doo doo doo bah doo bah dit. Doo doo doo bah dah. \_\_\_\_  
Doo doo doo bah doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah bah. \_\_\_\_

Repeat  
(go to meas. 45)

53

Lin - dy Hop - pin' 'til we're drop - pin'. Real swing danc - in!  
Doo wah doo dit. Doo wah doo daht. Doo doo doo dit.  
Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah.

Ending

*Fine*

57

It's the Cats' Me - - - - - ow! \_\_\_\_  
Doo doo doo bah. Bah. \_\_\_\_

# TEACHER

# 1. Cats' Meow

## Scales for Improvisation

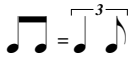
Beginner scale: G A B

Advanced scale: D E G A Bb B D' E'

### In the style of Swing era minor blues CD Tracks Performance 1-3 Accompaniment 31

Keller/Rossa

Track 1  
Intro 1



Recorder rests for 8 measures

Em Em7/D Em/C B aug7 Em Em7/D Em/C B aug7

Recorder

(1st time chords only)

A1 A2

Em Em7/D Em/C B aug7 Em Em7/D Em/C B aug7

9 (meas. 9)

*mf* Cruis - in' down the av - e - nue look - in' for the cats. \_\_\_  
 Sud - den - ly I hear the band on a hot tin roof. \_\_\_  
 Doo doo doo bah doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah bah. \_\_\_

[Scat syllables for swing rhythm practice!]

A m7 A m7/G F#m7(b5) B aug7 Em Em7/D Em/C B aug7

13

Need to hear some blue - sy sounds. Makes me want to dance. \_\_\_  
 Climb the stair - case to the top. Try to look a - loof. \_\_\_  
 Doo doo doo bah doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah bah. \_\_\_

F#m7(b5) B aug7 Em Em7/D F#m7(b5) B aug7 Repeat (go to meas. 9)

17

Look - in' cool in a tux - do, spats and top hat.  
 Soar - ing sax - es, scream - in' trumpets, long slide trom-bones.  
 Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah.

Track 2

Solos B1 B2

Em7

Scales for Improvisation: Beginner scale: G A B ~ Advanced scale: (Low) D E G A Bb B D' E'

Optional background for solos

21 (meas. 21)

*p* Wow! Cats' Me - ow! Swing danc -  
 Wow! Cats' Me - ow! Tux and  
 Doo. Doo doo bah. Doo doo

A m7 Em7

25

ing tails. it's my thing. Jump - in'  
 doo. Big band wails! For - mal  
 Doo doo doo. Doo doo

F#m7(b5) B aug7 Em7 Em7/D Em7/C B aug7 Repeat (go to meas. 21)

29

beat. So cool you feel the heat.  
 gowns. Like it's nine - teen for - ty.  
 doo. Doo doo doo doo doo bah.



# Cats' Meow

Track 3

C (End Solos)

F#m7(b5)/B

33

Pi - an - o man knows how to swing.  
Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah.

37

Ev - en bad dogs be - gin to sing.  
Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah.

Intro 2 Recorder rests for 4 measures

E m E m/D E m/C B aug7 E m E m7/D E m/C B aug7

41

A3 A4

E m E m7/D E m/C B aug7 E m E m7/D E m/C B aug7

45 (meas. 45)

*mf* Blue - sy big band's swing - in' beat, at's the cats' me - ow! \_\_\_  
Doo doo doo bah doo bah dah. \_\_\_  
Doo doo doo bah doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah bah. \_\_\_

A m7 A m7/G F#m7(b5) E m E m/D E m/C B aug7

49

Jit - ter - bug - gin' on the floor, cool cats swing dance now! \_\_\_  
Doo doo doo bah doo dit. Doo doo doo bah dah. \_\_\_  
Doo doo doo bah doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah bah. \_\_\_

F#m7(b5) B aug7 E m E m/D E m/C B aug7

53

Lin - dy Hop - pin' 'til we're drop - pin'. Real swing danc - in!  
Doo wah doo dit. Doo wah doo daht. Doo doo doo dit.  
Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah. Doo doo doo bah.

Repeat (go to meas. 45)

Ending

E m9

57

It's the Cats' Me ow! \_\_\_  
Doo doo doo bah. Bah. \_\_\_

Fine

## 2. *Groove's in the BAG* **G A B**

STUDENT Music Pages 11-12    TEACHER Music Pages 13 - 14

### STUDENT Note Choices

Beginner soloist:            *G A B*

Advanced soloist:            *D E G A B C' D' E'*

CD *Performance* TRACKS (Tracks 4 - 7 play without a pause between tracks)

**Introduction**, Section **A1**, Section **A2** ..... *CD TRACK 4*

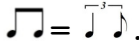

Section **B1**, Section **A3** ..... *CD TRACK 5*

Section **Solos C** ..... *CD TRACK 6*

**Intro 2**, Section **A4**, **Ending** ..... *CD TRACK 7*

CD *Accompaniment* TRACK ..... *CD TRACK 32*

### LESSON NOTES

- ❖ *Groove's in the BAG* is in the style of Blues Rock Shuffle.
- ❖ Written eighth notes are played as a quarter note/eighth note triplet .
- ❖ The rest on beat one of many 4 section phrases as well as the swing dotted quarter/eighth note pattern of the *B* section can be challenging for beginners. Singing the lyrics can help. (*Song 3* includes a suggestion for teaching )
  - 🎧 Play *Performance* tracks 4-7 – students sing lyrics.
  - 🎧 Play *Performance* tracks 4-7 – students pat rhythm of words while singing.
  - 🎧 Play *Performance* tracks 4-7 – students pat rhythm of words *without* singing.
- ❖ Beginning soloists can perform effective solos using only the melody notes *G A B*.
  - 🎧 Play *Accompaniment* track 32 – teacher pats various rhythms, students echo on only one pitch. When ready, students echo improvising pitches. (Begin with rhythms from the melody)
  - 🎧 Play *Accompaniment* track 32 – teacher (student) chooses different pitches, students improvise rhythms. (ALWAYS keep the steady beat groove.)
- ❖ Advanced soloists may use the *A Minor Pentatonic Scale*. Notice that the song is composed in *A Major* but the solo uses a combination the *A Minor Pentatonic Scale* and the *A Minor Blues Scale*. The  $\flat 5$  ( $E \flat$ ) of the *A Minor Blues Scale* is omitted here for ease of playing but may be added.

A	B	C	D	E	G
Root	2	<b><math>\flat 3</math></b>	4	5	<b><math>\flat 7</math></b> ( <i>Blues notes are bold</i> )

# 2. Groove's in the BAG

In the style of a Blues Rock Shuffle

Beginner scale: G A B

CD Tracks Performance 4-7 Accompaniment 32

Advanced scale: D E G A B C' D' E'

Track 4

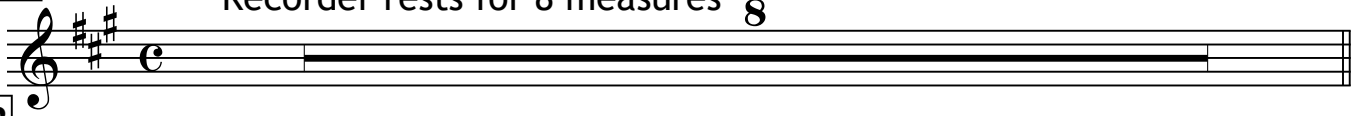


Intro 1

Recorder rests for 8 measures 8

Keller/Rossa

Recorder



A1 A2

9 (meas. 9) *mf* Groove's in the bag \_\_\_ though I'm not one to brag. \_\_\_  
Rock shuf - fle blues; \_\_\_ with this sound you can't lose. \_\_\_

13 Hard driv - in' beat \_\_\_ in - sists you move your feet. \_\_\_  
Rock stea - dy groove. \_\_\_ Blues shuf fle just to prove \_\_\_

17 Repeat  
(go to meas. 9)

Track 5 Spread the news, \_\_\_ rock - in' blues \_\_\_ moves your shoes. \_\_\_  
re - cor - ders \_\_\_ rock the house. \_\_\_ jam min' blues! \_\_\_

B1 21 Who needs \_\_\_ gui - tar \_\_\_ when we're \_\_\_ rock - in'? \_\_\_

25 Who needs \_\_\_ gan \_\_\_ when we're \_\_\_ jam - min'? \_\_\_

29 All I \_\_\_ need is \_\_\_ my re - cor - der!

A3 33 Groove's all I need \_\_\_ when my blues soul is freed. \_\_\_

37 I know what's cool. \_\_\_ Re - cor - der blues will rule! \_\_\_

41 Use the scale; \_\_\_ "A" blues scale. \_\_\_ You can't fail! \_\_\_

# Groove's in the Bag

Track 6

Solos C

A7

Scales for Improvisation: Beginner scale: G A B ~ Advanced scale: (low)D E G A B C' D' E'  
Optional background for solos

45

*p* Groo - vin! Jam - min! \_ Groo - vin! Jam - min! \_

53

D7

A7

Groo - vin! \_ Jam - min! \_ Groo - vin! \_ Jam - min! \_

61

Em7

D7

A7

(End Solos)

Groo - vin! \_ Jam - min! Groo - vin! \_ Jam - min! \_

Track 7

Intro 2

Recorder rests for 8 measures 8

69

A4

77

*mf* Groove's in the bag \_ though I'm not one to brag. \_

81

Hard driv - in' but \_ in - sists you move your feet. \_

85

Spread the news; \_ rock - in' blues \_ moves your shoes. \_

Ending

89

Groove's in the bag! \_ Groove's in the bag! \_

93

Groove's in the bag! \_ Groove's in the bag! \_ *Fine*

# 2. Groove's in the BAG

In the style of a Blues Rock Shuffle

CD Tracks Performance 4-7 Accompaniment 32

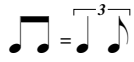
Scales for Improvisation

Beginner scale: G A B

Advanced scale: D E G A B C' D' E'

Track 4

Intro 1



Recorder rests for 8 measures

Keller/Rossa

G/A A G/A A G/A A G/A A

Recorder

Recorder accompaniment staff with chords G/A, A, G/A, A, G/A, A, G/A, A.

(Similar Accompaniment for A section)

A1 A2

A7

Musical staff for measures 9-12, starting with a repeat sign and a fermata.

mf Groove's in the bag though I'm not one to brag. Rock shuf - fle blues; with this sound you can't lose.

Musical staff for measures 13-16, with chords D7 and A7.

Hard driv - in' beat in - sists you move your feet. Rock stea - dy groove. Blues shuf - fle just to prove

Musical staff for measures 17-20, with chords Em7, D7, A7, and E7. Includes a repeat sign and the instruction 'Repeat (go to meas. 9)'.

Spread the news, rock - in' blues loves your shoes. re - cor - ders rock the house. Jam min' blues!

Musical staff for measures 21-24, with chord A7.

Who needs gui - tar when we're rock - in? Who needs or - gan when we're jam - min? All I need is my re - cor - der!

Musical staff for measures 25-28, with chords D7 and A7.

Musical staff for measures 29-32, with chords E7, A/E, G/D, D7, A, A/E, and E.

Musical staff for measures 33-36, with chord A7.

Groove's all I need when my blues soul is freed. I know what's cool; Re - cor - der blues will rule!

Musical staff for measures 37-40, with chords D7 and A7.

Musical staff for measures 41-44, with chords Em7, D7, A7, and E7.

Use the scale; "A" blues scale. You can't fail!



# Groove's in the Bag

Track 6

Solos C

A7

Scales for Improvisation: Beginner scale: G A B ~ Advanced scale: (low)D E G A B C' D' E'  
Optional background for solos

45

*p* Groo - vin! \_\_\_ Jam - min! \_\_\_ Groo - vin! \_\_\_ Jam - min! \_\_\_

53

D7

A7

Groo - vin! \_\_\_ Jam - min! \_\_\_ Groo - vin! \_\_\_ Jam - min! \_\_\_

61

Em7

D7

A7

(End Solos)

Groo - vin! \_\_\_ Jam - min! \_\_\_ Groo - vin! \_\_\_ Jam - min! \_\_\_

Track 7

Intro 2

Recorder rests for 8 measures

G/A

A

G/A

A

G/A

A

G/A

A

69

A4

A7

*mf* Groove's in the bag \_\_\_ though I'm not one to brag. \_\_\_

81

D7

A7

Hard driv - in' bea \_\_\_ in - sists you move your feet. \_\_\_

85

Em7

D7

A7

E7

Spread the news, \_\_\_ rock - in' blues \_\_\_ moves your shoes. \_\_\_

Ending

A7

89 Groove's in the bag! \_\_\_ Groove's in the bag! \_\_\_

93

E7/G#  
A7/E

A7

Fine

Groove's in the bag! \_\_\_ Groove's in the bag! \_\_\_