

Ain't Nuthin' But The Blues

Are you having trouble telling the difference between Blind Lemon Jefferson and Blind Willie McTell? Do you want to know what a mojo hand is – and what happens if you go down to the crossroads at midnight and hand your guitar over to a tall, dark stranger to tune it for you? Do you want to find out if blues ain't nothing but a good man feeling bad?

Then you may well be interested in two short courses that I am running in September and November on Pre-War and Post-War Blues.

Course dates

Each course will run as 4 weekly sessions from 1:30pm to around 2:30pm at The Core, Unit 11 Orchard Gate, Otley, on the following dates:-

- **Pre-War Blues** – Fri 2nd, Fri 16th, Fri 23rd and Thurs 29th September
- **Post-War Blues** – Tues 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th November

Course content

Pre-War Blues – what is blues?; a brief blues history from the start of the 20th century up to the start of WWII; a dive into each of the main musical styles (classic female blues, Delta blues, Piedmont blues, gospel blues) finishing with a look at the place of the piano and the harmonica in blues and “what happened next”.

Post-War Blues – a brief history of blues from WWII to the present; what differentiates pre-war and post-war blues; various electric blues styles, including Chicago Blues; women in post-war blues; slump and revivals and the various blues booms; white blues artists; and finally, “where is blues now?”.

As Frank Zappa wisely said “*talking about music is like dancing about architecture*”, and so, in addition to talking about the music, every session will feature a significant selection of music by the key artists in blues.



An opportunity to start up a Blues Appreciation Group

I am also hoping that, following on from these courses, there will be enough interest in blues music to start up a Blues Appreciation Group (which I am happy to organise).

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