

# 1.3 Improvising The Blues

## in C

We will now use our *C blues scale* to play over a *12 bar blues*. Practice the exercise as written a number of times. Listen to how the notes sound against the chords. After you have practiced the written solo, improvise your own solo using the blues scale.

Swing  
C7

When **Comping** (accompanying a solo) in the left hand, try to minimize the amount of notes you use. The two most important chord tones to include are the 3rd and the 7th. For instance, with C7 (C-E-G-Bb) we omitted the root note (C) and the 5th (G) and played the 3rd (E) and the 7th (Bb). The same thing happens with the F7 (A and Eb) and the G7 (B and F).

2 **Improvise**

13 C<sup>7</sup>

Measures 13-16: Treble clef contains slurs. Bass clef contains chords: B<sup>b</sup>2, E<sup>b</sup>3, B<sup>b</sup>2 (measures 13, 15) and B<sup>b</sup>2, E<sup>b</sup>3 (measures 14, 16). Measure 14 has a fermata on the E<sup>b</sup>3.

17 F<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup>

Measures 17-20: Treble clef contains slurs. Bass clef contains chords: B<sup>b</sup>2, E<sup>b</sup>3 (measures 17, 19) and B<sup>b</sup>2, E<sup>b</sup>3 (measures 18, 20). Measure 18 has a fermata on the E<sup>b</sup>3.

21 G<sup>7</sup> F<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup>

Measures 21-24: Treble clef contains slurs. Bass clef contains chords: B<sup>b</sup>2, E<sup>b</sup>3 (measures 21, 23) and B<sup>b</sup>2, E<sup>b</sup>3 (measures 22, 24). Measure 22 has a fermata on the E<sup>b</sup>3.