

# Miles Davis - All Blues. Kind of Blue released 1959.

## The Elements of Music

Melody



Rhythm



Texture



Instruments



Genre



Harmony & Tonality



Structure



### MELODY

Main head melody is quite simple. Characterised by rising 6ths. (Interval from D to B)

#### **Improvised solos:**

Trumpet: Miles Davis

Mostly made up of short, syncopated motifs. 4 choruses.

Alto sax: Cannonball Adderley

Quicker notes and a wider range. More virtuosic than Miles Davis. 4 choruses.

Tenor sax: John Coltrane

Uses fast scales and quick runs. Virtuoso. 4 choruses.

Piano solo: Bill Evans

Calmer - simple melody, string of parallel chords. 2 choruses.

### RHYTHM

Written in 6/4.

Often described as a jazz waltz.

Performed with swung quavers.

Frequent syncopation.

Drummer keeps a steady beat on the ride cymbal - varies the backing by improvising a syncopated snare drum part.

### TEXTURE

Mainly homophonic. Melody and accompaniment.

Rhythm section takes a back seat during solo sections.

One person solos at a time.

Link section (saxes playing in thirds) provides contrast in texture and gives the music space to breathe.

### INSTRUMENTS

Frontline

Trumpet - Miles Davis

Alto sax - Cannonball

Adderley

Tenor sax - John Coltrane

Rhythm Section

Piano - Bill Evans

Bass - Paul Chambers

Drums - Jimmy Cobb

### HARMONY AND TONALITY

1 G7	2 G7	3 G7	4 G7
5 C7	6 C7	7 G7	8 G7
9 D7#9	10 Eb7#9 D7#9	11 G7	12 G7

Solos make use of the mixolydian mode.

### STRUCTURE

Based on 12 bar blues progression. Each statement of the chords is called a 'chorus'

Intro - link (sax riff) - Head - link - Head - link - Trumpet solo - link - Alto solo - link - Tenor solo - link - Piano solo - link - Head - link - Head - link - Outro.

### GENRE

Modal jazz. More laidback and uncomplicated than Bebop.

Improvisations were based on modes. Greater freedom. Longer solos. All of the musicians on this album were top jazz musicians.