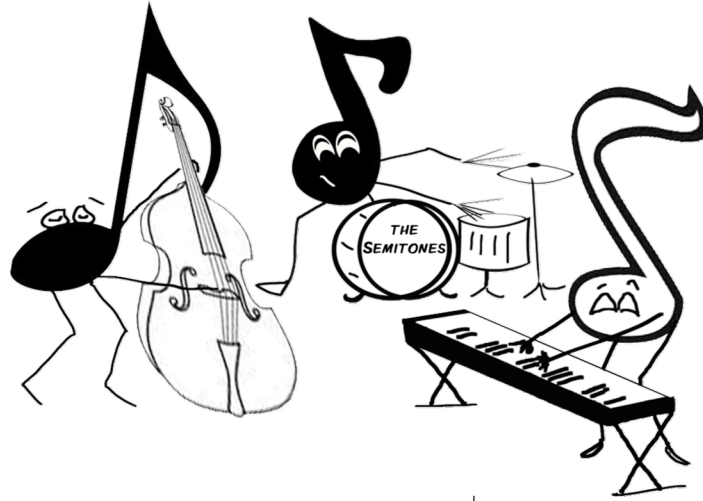


# Cluster Blues



**SPEED  
LIMIT  
132**

With a steady groove and even eighths (♩ = 132)

John Burge

4

7

11

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*dim.*

(no rit.)

©2013 by John Burge

15

*p*

18

*p (sub.)*

21

*p (sub.)* *f*

24

*(f)*

27

*p* *cresc. e rit.* *f*

31

35

39

43

*p* *mf a tempo*

*mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

*poco rit.* (l.h.) *p*

*f* *mf* *mp*

*vib.*  
*Ped.*

In music, a "cluster" is a group of notes that are very close together, often semitones apart and played simultaneously. In this composition, the clusters will be immediately apparent, but to many listeners hearing the first bar it might actually sound like a mistake has been made. However, once the semitone clusters are heard a few times in the subsequent bars, it will become clear that these dissonances are intentional. A great jazz player has the ability to make the "wrong" notes sound "right" so enjoy the clusters by really emphasizing their edginess. This blues is somewhat unusual in the use of modulation in each verse although the primary key of D Major will seem obvious once one realizes that the keys of G Major and A Major in the first two verses, are really the sub-dominant and dominant to the D Major tonic key in the final verse.