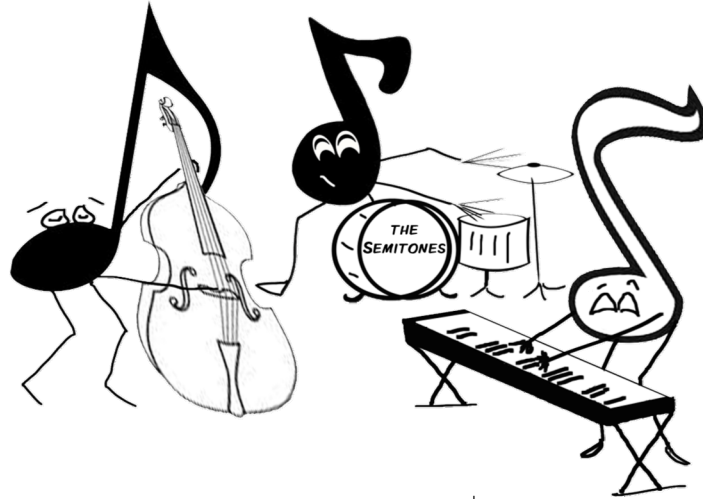


# Cluster Blues



**SPEED  
LIMIT  
132**

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

John Burge

Musical score for piano in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of four systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The tempo is marked as 132 beats per minute (♩ = 132). The piece is in a blues style with a steady groove of even eighth notes.

System 1 (Measures 1-3): Treble clef starts with a *mf* dynamic. Bass clef provides a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

System 2 (Measures 4-6): Continues the eighth-note pattern. Measure 6 features a *f* dynamic marking.

System 3 (Measures 7-10): Measure 7 starts with *mf*. Measure 8 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 9 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 10 has a *f* dynamic. There are accents (>) on the eighth notes in measures 8, 9, and 10.

System 4 (Measures 11-14): Measure 11 starts with *mf*. Measure 12 has a *dim.* dynamic. Measure 13 has a *(no rit.)* marking. Measure 14 has a *mf* dynamic. The piece concludes with a key signature change to D minor (two sharps) in the final measure.

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.* *f* *mf* *mp* *p* (l.h.)

*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.