

The first half of the first solo stays close to the melody with some grace licks. In the second half, when the lick is repeated and varied as the chords pass from C to C⁹dim to G. This same lick is used and varied again to open the second solo. Blues solos are often built on the chord structure without trying to imply or state the melody at all. Such is the case with the second solo here.

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in G major. The first staff begins with a C chord and a melody featuring grace notes. The second staff continues the melody with a C chord. The third staff introduces a B7 chord and a C chord. The fourth staff features G, D, and C chords. The fifth staff has C and G chords. The sixth staff has C and G chords. The seventh staff has B7, C, and C⁹dim chords. The eighth staff has C, D, and G chords.

Backwater Blues

This is a very straight forward 12-bar blues about the hard times created by a backwater flood. Notice the rhythm of the lyrics of the second and third verses do not fit exactly with the rhythms of the first verse. This is very typical of blues lyrics.

swing eighth

Well it rained five days and the sky turned black as night.

Yes it rained five days and the sky turned black as night.

There was trouble taking place

in the low-lands that night.

Well, it thundered and it lightened and the winds began to blow,
Well, it thundered and it lightened and the winds began to blow,
There were thousands of people didn't have no place to go.

I woke up this morning, couldn't even get out my door,
I woke up this morning, couldn't even get out my door,
Enough trouble to make a poor boy wonder where he gonna go.