


# West End Blues (Joe Oliver and Clarence Williams)

Analysis by Tim Foxon

Bars	Instrument	Instrumental Function
1-6	Trumpet	Solo, improvisatory, flourisly introduction.
	Clarinet, Trombone, Piano	Pause on one chord at the end of the intro.
7-18	The 12 bar blues pattern starts here: I I I I IV I I V IV I I	
	Trumpet	Main tune, which is both syncopated and swung. Ends with a triplet phrase first heard in the introduction
	Clarinet	Plays tune a 3 <sup>rd</sup> below the trumpet for several bars, before playing short counter-melodies.
	Trombone	Long notes, little melodic movement. Much glissandi.
	Piano	Regular, crotchet chords with one note in the bass, nearly always the tonic.
	Banjo	Regular crotchet chords, like piano
19-30	Trombone	Improvises, with glissandi
	Piano	Crochet chords continue
	Banjo	Continues like piano
	Percussion	Syncopated 'milk bottle' sound.
31-42	Clarinet	Improvises, using a repeated rhythmic phrase taken from the original tune:  - Very low register – unusual since clarinet normally played descants.
	Vocal	'Scat' singing, imitating the clarinet at some points, and filling in when clarinet rests.
	Piano	Crochet chords continue, but last bar has interest leading into piano solo.
	Banjo	Continues like piano
43-54	Piano	Complex improvisation with many arpeggios, exploiting the full range of the piano. Begins quite freely, but becomes more rhythmic when the right hand begins playing octaves. Left hand plays in 'stride' style.
	The section is 12-bars long, but deviates from the 12-bar blues chord sequence, with faster harmonic rate of change (now two chords per bar), and some chords from outside the key, including D7 and F. Most of the other chords are either I, IV or V still.	
55-68	Trumpet	Begins with 4 tied semiquavers, along with clarinet. Then a section of regular semiquavers, with one phrase repeated 4 times before heading off elsewhere. Finishes the piece with a rubato descending phrase, two minims, and a mordent in the final bar.
	Clarinet	Begins with 4 tied semiquavers, along with trumpet. Then plays the familiar syncopated phrase under the trumpet solo. Finished with 3 long, quite miserable notes.
	Trombone	Begins section with long notes, until the piano solo, with only brief section of melody in bar 60. Plays three long notes in the last 2 bars, along with all of the other instruments.
	Piano	Returns to the regular crotchet pulse, but for the outro, has a solo descending sequence, finishing with 4 long chords.
	Banjo	Like piano, returns to the regular crotchet pulse.
	Percussion	Ends the piece with a comical clop.
	Piece slows down in the last few bars, with all instruments playing long notes for a solemn ending.	