

Backwater Blues

Bessie Smith

When it rains five days and the sky turns dark at night,

Chord symbols: I, IV, V, I

Technical markings: 3, 7, 3

Detailed description: This staff shows the vocal line for Bessie Smith. It is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line with several triplets and a 7th interval. The lyrics are "When it rains five days and the sky turns dark at night,". Chord symbols I, IV, V, and I are placed above the staff. Technical markings include a triplet of eighth notes, a 7th interval, and another triplet of eighth notes.

Skip James

When it rains five days and the cloud turn dark at night,

Chord symbols: I, V, I, IV, iv, V

Technical markings: 5, 3, 7, 5

Detailed description: This staff shows the vocal line for Skip James. It is in 4/4 time and features a more rhythmic and bluesy melodic line. The lyrics are "When it rains five days and the cloud turn dark at night,". Chord symbols I, V, I, IV, iv, and V are placed above the staff. Technical markings include a 5th interval, a triplet of eighth notes, a 7th interval, and a 5th interval.

Big Bill Broonzy

It rain five days and the clouds turn - ing dark as night.

Chord symbols: I, IV, I

Technical markings: 5, 3, 7, 3, 7

Detailed description: This staff shows the vocal line for Big Bill Broonzy. It is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line with a prominent 5th interval. The lyrics are "It rain five days and the clouds turn - ing dark as night." Chord symbols I, IV, and I are placed above the staff. Technical markings include a 5th interval, a triplet of eighth notes, a 7th interval, another triplet of eighth notes, and another 7th interval.

Brownie McGhee

When it rained five days skies turn dark as night,

Chord symbols: I, IV, I

Technical markings: 3, 3, 3, 5, 7

Detailed description: This staff shows the vocal line for Brownie McGhee. It is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line with several triplets. The lyrics are "When it rained five days skies turn dark as night,". Chord symbols I, IV, and I are placed above the staff. Technical markings include three triplets of eighth notes, a 5th interval, and a 7th interval.

Memphis Slim

When it rain five day skies turn dark as night

Chord symbols: I, IV, I

Technical markings: 3, 5, 6, 3

Detailed description: This staff shows the vocal line for Memphis Slim. It is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line with a 3rd interval and a 6th interval. The lyrics are "When it rain five day skies turn dark as night". Chord symbols I, IV, and I are placed above the staff. Technical markings include a triplet of eighth notes, a 5th interval, a 6th interval, and a triplet of eighth notes.

Dinah Washington

When it rains five days and the skies turn dark at night

Chord symbols: I, IV, I

Technical markings: 3, 5, 3, 3

Detailed description: This staff shows the vocal line for Dinah Washington. It is in 4/4 time and features a melodic line with several triplets. The lyrics are "When it rains five days and the skies turn dark at night". Chord symbols I, IV, and I are placed above the staff. Technical markings include a triplet of eighth notes, a 5th interval, another triplet of eighth notes, and a final triplet of eighth notes.

Bessie Smith

V⁷/IV IV ii⁶ I

When it rains five days and the skies turn dark as night,

Skip James

I IV V I V I

When it rains five days and the cloud turn dark at night,

Big Bill Broonzy

IV I

Yes, it rain five days and the cloud turn dark as night,

Brownie McGhee

V⁷/IV IV I

When it rains five days, skies turn dark as night

Memphis Slim

IV I

Rain five days, skies turn dark as night,

Dinah Washington

IV I

Well, when it rains five days and the skies turned black as night,

Bessie Smith

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V

I

Then trou - ble's ta - king place in the low - - lands at night.

Skip James

I

V

IV

V

I

and ya know ba - - by, some - bo - dy ain't treat me right.

Big Bill Broonzy

V

IV

I

Oh, then trou - ble ta - king place Lord, in the low - lands at night.

Brownie McGhee

V

IV

I

There's trou - ble ta - king place, oh, in the low - land at night.

Memphis Slim

V

IV

I

trou - ble ta - king place in that low - - land at night.

Dinah Washington

V⁷/ii

ii

V

I

You know there's trou - ble in the low - lands and ev - ery thing ain't right.