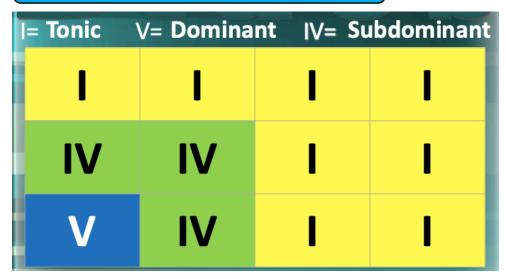
Musical knowledge 5: blues

Definitions and theory



- 1. 12 bar blues = music based around this chord progression
- 2. Tonic = chord I
- 3. Subdominant = chord IV
- **4. Dominant** = chord V
- **5. Improvisation** = making it up on the spot
- 6. Turnaround = where you substitute chord V in bar 12
- **7. Seventh chord** = when an extra note is added to a chord, 7 notes above the root, i.e. G7:



Chords and Roman numerals

- Whatever key you are in, count that as
 '1' (i.e. in C major, 1 is C)
- From there, count up to 4 and 5 to work out what chords are IV and V (in C, IV is F and V is G)

Instruments for blues

INSTRUMENTS

Strings: double bass or bass guitar often used to play the bass line. Guitar plays chords and melodies

Woodwind: saxophone sometimes used for melody

Brass: trumpet//trombone often used for melody

Percussion: drum kit

Voices: soprano/alto/tenor/bass - any kind

of voice can sing blues

Keyboards: piano is often used to play chords, bass line and/or melody, but organ

is sometimes used too

