



Treasure Island

2. Jim's blues

DAVID

Hi - David Grant here - welcome back to the *Music Workshop*. This is *Jim's blues*. Who's Jim? Well, twelve year old Jim Hawkins is the main character in *Treasure Island*. He basically manages a small hotel on the Bristol coast in the 1700s. But he is bored rigid. We'll meet him later. Just for interest - that trumpet you hear - it isn't a trumpet. It's a man. Called Earl. Good, isn't he? Today's song is a particular type of blues called the 12 bar blues. Verse 1 goes like this:

*When the moon and the stars are shining up above,
They seem to be calling my name.*

*The sound of the ocean - its never ending motion -
I feel myself floating away.*

*I'm longing for adventure but nothing ever comes my
way.*

Don't worry, just the first bit first - listen up:

*When the moon and the stars are shining up above,
They seem to be calling my name.*

And - 1, 2, 3 -

I



Treasure Island

SINGERS

*When the moon and the stars are shining up above,
They seem to be calling my name.*

DAVID

Listen now:

*The sound of the ocean – its never ending motion –
I feel myself floating away.*

Your turn. Ready and -

SINGERS

*The sound of the ocean – its never ending motion –
I feel myself floating away.*

DAVID

Last line!

*I'm longing for adventure but nothing ever comes my
way.*

Your turn - 1, 2, 3, 4 -

SINGERS

*I'm longing for adventure but nothing ever comes my
way.*

DAVID

Will you try all of verse 1? 1, 2, 3 -



SINGERS

*When the moon and the stars are shining up above,
They seem to be calling my name.
The sound of the ocean - its never ending motion -
I feel myself floating away.
I'm longing for adventure but nothing ever comes my
way.*

DAVID

I guess that's why they call it the blues...

That was good. Well done. Verse 2 goes like this...

*The sun in the morning, the deep blue is calling,
I'm sailing on clouds in the sky
But I'm only dreaming - my life has no meaning.
I know that I'm drifting away.
I'm longing for adventure but nothing ever comes my
way.*

DAVID

It's almost the same tune as verse 1. Listen again -

*The sun in the morning, the deep blue is calling,
I'm sailing on clouds in the sky.*

Ready and -



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SINGERS

*The sun in the morning, the deep blue is calling,
I'm sailing on clouds in the sky.*

DAVID

Next line -

*But I'm only dreaming - my life has no meaning.
I know that I'm drifting away.*

Ready and -

SINGERS

*But I'm only dreaming - my life has no meaning.
I know that I'm drifting away.*

DAVID

Altogether now!

SINGERS

*I'm longing for adventure but nothing ever comes my
way.*

DAVID

And sing verse 2 - 'The sun...' - Ready and -

SINGERS

*The sun in the morning, the deep blue is calling,
I'm sailing on clouds in the sky.
But I'm only dreaming - my life has no meaning.
I know that I'm drifting away.
I'm longing for adventure but nothing ever comes my
way.*



DAVID

This song has a Middle 8, that is 8 bars of music - which is different from the verse. Listen:

*It's early in the morning, I'm scrubbing down the floor -
My working day's from dusk till dawn.*

*I seem to have no leisure, I dream of buried treasure,
I can't take it no more...*

Do you hear there are lots of blues notes in this middle section? It's not 'I can't take it no more' (happy, happy). No, it's 'I can't take it no more.' Those flattened notes really underline the down in the dumps and flat and fed up he's feeling. So when you sing that, that's what I want, I want to get that fed up feeling. Try the first 4 bars - listen now then come in after 4...

*It's early in the morning, I'm scrubbing down the floor -
My working day's from dusk till dawn.*

2, 3, 4 -

SINGERS

*It's early in the morning, I'm scrubbing down the floor -
My working day's from dusk till dawn.*

DAVID

Listen on:





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DAVID

*I seem to have no leisure, I dream of buried treasure -
I can't take it no more...*

2, 3, 4-

SINGERS

*I seem to have no leisure, I dream of buried treasure -
I can't take it no more...*

DAVID

Whole middle! Ready and -

SINGERS

*It's early in the morning, I'm scrubbing down the floor -
My working day's from dusk till dawn.
I seem to have no leisure, I dream of buried treasure -
I can't take it no more...*

DAVID

This next verse is exactly the same as verse 1, but with a fancy ending which we'll work at now. Find the words near the end which begin 'I'm longing for adventure.' OK? And listen down to the end of the song...

*I'm longing for adventure but nothing ever comes my way.
I'm longing for adventure...nothing ever comes my way.*

DAVID

Right, let's do the first line. Listen then sing it back:

But nothing ever comes my way...



Your turn. 3, 4 -

SINGERS

But nothing ever comes my way...

DAVID

Listen to the last line:

I'm longing for adventure -

Your turn. 3, 4 -

SINGERS

I'm longing for adventure -

DAVID

Now just listen.

Nothing ever comes my way.

What about that last line? Isn't it great? Listen to it again.

Nothing ever comes my way.

You try it. Ready and -

SINGERS

Nothing ever comes my way.

DAVID

Let's sing both lines now. Like this -



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I'm longing for adventure but nothing ever comes my way.

I'm longing for adventure...nothing ever comes my way.

Your turn. Ready and -

SINGERS

I'm longing for adventure but nothing ever comes my way.

I'm longing for adventure...nothing ever comes my way.

DAVID

Time to pull all the hard work together now. 'Jim's blues' has an instrumental after the Middle 8, but if you don't have an instrument handy, you can always join Jim vocally by scat-singing. Bye from me! Be doo biddy dee ba dah...

