Work Song

What’s a Chain Gang?

This song is all about injustice. Before the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, African-Americans were routinely mistreated. Punishments usually were much more severe than what fit the crime – which was often committed out of desperation (e.g. attempting to put food on the table). Try to put yourself in the shoes of the person in the song; do you think he/she is being treated fairly? (By the way, is the person in the song a man or a woman?) One more question: what’s a chain gang?

Suggested Listening

Work Song
- Nat Adderley: Work Song
- The Animals: Animatism and Bonus Hits
- Nina Simone: Ultimate Blues
Work Song Improvisation Scales

Trumpet in B♭

D Blues Scale - Dm7

Dorian Scale - Cm7

Amixolydian - A7

G Mixolydian - G7

Work Song Chords

Trumpet in B♭

Dm7 A7 G7

Em7

Work Song

Trumpet Stack

Dm7

Am7 A7

Dm7

G7 E7 A7#5

Repeat for Solos

Em7

Repeat for Solos

WORK SONG music by Nat Adderley, words by Oscar Brown, Jr.
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