

Rhythm & Meter

Rhythm describes how long we hold the notes in a single position. Here are some basic definitions:

Bar Lines-divide the tunes into equal parts or measures

Measure –the distance between the bar lines

Meter Signature -the fraction at the beginning of any musical composition that tells us how many beats are in the measure and what kind of note gets one beat. These are our choices of meter signatures:

2 2 3 4 6 9 -number of beats in the measure

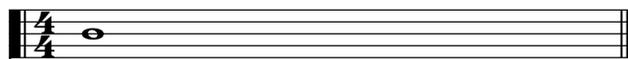
2 4 4 4 8 8 -kind of note that gets one beat

Below are the different types of notes and their values:

Types of Notes

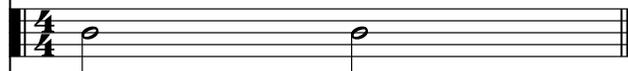
Values

Whole Note



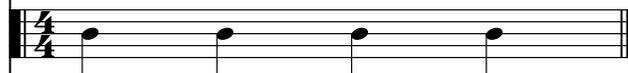
= 4 beats

Half Notes



= 2 beats each

Quarter Notes



= 1 beat each

Eighth Notes



= 1/2 beat each

Sixteenth Notes



= 1/4 beat each

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

Below the 16th notes are a series of syllables. You say them “one ee and uh, two ee and uh” and so forth. When you say the whole note, you are going to say “one” and hold it for 4 claps. Just line up the syllables to the notes that you are saying. The half notes are “one – three-”, the quarter notes are “1 2 3 4”, the eighth notes are “1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and” and finally the 16 notes are back to “1 ee and uh, 2 ee and uh, 3 ee and uh, 4 ee and uh”. Before proceeding to the next page, I would practice these over and over again. This is a simple process.

There are two kinds of Rhythm Patterns: The Duple patterns include tunes in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4. The triple patterns include tunes in 6/8 to 9/8 time. Duple patterns divide the beats in to 2 to 4 equal parts whereas the triple patterns divide the beat into 3 parts. Practice saying the syllables below the notes. When you do the whole note, you are going to say “one” over 2, 3 and 4. The notes in the parenthesis are silent. When you write this language into your music you can use -2-3-4. My music writing program didn’t have any dashes. Again, you can hear examples of all of these patterns in the audio with this program.

Rhythm Patterns

Duples

Gary A Guth

Whole Note

Dotted Half Notes

Half Notes

Quarter Notes

Musical notation for duple patterns on a single staff. The first measure shows a whole note. The second measure shows a dotted half note. The third measure shows two half notes. The fourth measure shows four quarter notes.

1(234)

1(23)

4

1(2)

3(4)

1

2

3

4

Eighth Notes

Sixteenth Notes

Musical notation for eighth and sixteenth notes on a single staff. The first measure shows eighth notes. The second measure shows sixteenth notes.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

Combination Eight and Sixteenths

Combination Sixteenths and Eight

Musical notation for combination eighth and sixteenth notes on a single staff. The first measure shows eighth notes followed by sixteenth notes. The second measure shows sixteenth notes followed by eighth notes.

1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a

1 e & 2 e & 3 e & 4 e &

Sixteenth followed by dotted Eighth note

Dotted Eighth Note followed by Sixteenth Note

Triples

Dotted Quarter Notes

Musical notation for various patterns on a single staff. The first measure shows a sixteenth note followed by a dotted eighth note. The second measure shows a dotted eighth note followed by a sixteenth note. The third measure shows a triplet of eighth notes. The fourth measure shows dotted quarter notes.

1 e 2 e 3 e 4 e

1 a 2 a 3 a 4 a

1 2 3

Eighth Note Triplets

Quarter Note followed by Eight Note

Dotted Triplet Pattern

Musical notation for eighth note triplets, quarter note followed by eighth note, and dotted triplet pattern on a single staff.

1 & a 2 & a 3 & a

1 a 2 a 3 a

TA ti ta TA ti ta TA ti ta

Another Dotted Triplet Pattern

Musical notation for another dotted triplet pattern on a single staff.

ti TA ta ti TA ta ti TA ta