Chapter 3  Basic Rhythms

In this chapter you will:
1. Review some rhythmic notation
2. Draw bar lines to make measures
3. Write time signatures
4. Clap rhythms with sixteenth notes
5. Count the beats in phrases with dotted notes
6. Count the beats in phrases with rests

date:

3.1 Review some rhythmic notation

1. A beat is _____________________________________________________________
   (see worksheet 1.7)

2. **DRAW** lines to match items in column 1 with items in column 2, AND DRAW lines to match items in column 2 with items in column 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Note symbol</th>
<th>2. Note Name</th>
<th>3. Usual number of beats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 eighth notes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a quarter note</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a whole note</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>an eighth note</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a half note</td>
<td>one half</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **DRAW** the note in the box which makes one side of the “equation” equal the other side.

a.  \[
\begin{align*}
\text{\qquad \qquad } & \quad \quad \quad =
\end{align*}
\]

b.  \[
\begin{align*}
\text{\qquad \qquad } & \quad \quad \quad =
\end{align*}
\]

c.  \[
\begin{align*}
\text{\qquad \qquad } & \quad \quad \quad =
\end{align*}
\]

d.  \[
\begin{align*}
\text{\qquad \qquad } & \quad \quad \quad =
\end{align*}
\]

e.  \[
\begin{align*}
\text{\qquad \qquad } & \quad \quad \quad =
\end{align*}
\]
3.2 Draw bar lines to make measures

- Vertical lines on the staff are called **bar lines**.
- The spaces between the bar lines are called **measures**.
- The first measure in a staff does not usually have a left bar line.
- Each measure has the same number of beats.
- Measures show the regular pattern of strong and weak beats in music.
  - The first beat of every measure is strong.
  - The **double bar** at the end of the above staff signals the end of the music.

1. *HOW MANY* measures are there in the phrase above?_____
2. **DRAW** bar lines in the following phrases. Each measure should have the number of quarter note beats which are shown in the box on the left. End the phrases with a double bar.

```
EXAMPLE 2\|\|   4\|\|   3\|\|   5\|\|   3\|\|
```

Clap these rhythms.
Date:

3.3 Write time signatures

The numbers at the beginning of a piece, the two fours after the clef in the above phrase, are called a time signature. The **time signature** tells how long each measure is.

- The top number tells how many counts there are in each measure.
- The bottom number tells what kind of note to count. If there is a 4 on the bottom, count the time in terms of quarter notes.

1. **How many** quarter notes long is a measure of \( \frac{3}{4} \) (that is, a measure preceded by a time signature of \( \frac{3}{4} \))?

2. **How many** quarter notes long is a measure of \( \frac{5}{4} \)?

3. **Write** the time signatures in the boxes. Count the length of each measure in terms of quarter notes.

4. **Draw** bar lines according to the time signatures. End with a double bar.

© Gilbert DeBenedetti
3.4 Clap rhythms with sixteenth notes

• All the notes above are called *sixteenth notes*. Sixteenth notes either have two flags or are connected by two beams.
• There are four sixteenth notes in a quarter note, the usual beat.

\[ \boxed{\quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad} \]
• There are 16 sixteenth notes in a whole note.

*CLAP* these rhythms:

1. \[ \boxed{\quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad} \]
2. \[ \boxed{\quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad} \]
3. \[ \boxed{\quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad} \]
4. \[ \boxed{\quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad} \]
5. \[ \boxed{\quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad} \]
6. \[ \boxed{\quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad \Box \quad} \]
Date:

3.5 Count the beats in phrases with dotted notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Beats in Note</th>
<th>Beats in Dot</th>
<th>Total Number of Beats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• All the above notes are dotted notes.
• A dot after a note lengthens the note by half the value of the note itself. So the value of the dot depends on the value of the note which precedes it.
• As shown above: dotted quarter notes are usually 1 1/2 beats long, dotted half notes are usually 3 beats long, and dotted whole notes are usually 6 beats long.

1. **DRAW** bar lines:
   a. \(\frac{3}{4}\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\)
   
   b. \(\frac{4}{4}\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\)
   
   c. \(\frac{4}{4}\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\)

2. **WRITE** the time signatures

   a. \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\)
   
   b. \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\)
   
   c. \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\) \(\cdot\)
3.6 Count the beats in phrases with rests

- Rests tell how long silences are in music.
- Each note has a rest which stands for the same length of time as the note.

See the chart above.

1. **DRAW** rests in the boxes so that both sides of the “equations” add to the same length of time.

2. **GO ONLINE** to www.gmajormusictheory.org
   - a. **CLICK** "Music Fundamentals"
   - b. **CLICK** in the "Virtual Flash Cards" column:
     - 3.1 Note & Rest Durations
   - c. **PRACTICE** the durations you have learned.