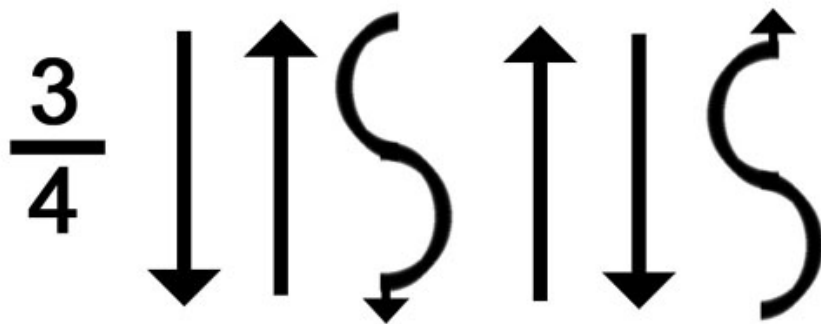


unit 2:

Rhythm

1. beat
2. tempo
3. accent, MEASURE and Rhythm



basic vocabulary

Time signature/Measure, Bar: compás.

Barline: línea divisoria.

Upper figure : numerador del compás.

Lower figure: denominador del compás.

Double meter : binario.

Triple meter: ternario.

Quadruple meter : cuaternario.

Beat: pulso.

Accent: acento.

Rhythm: ritmo.

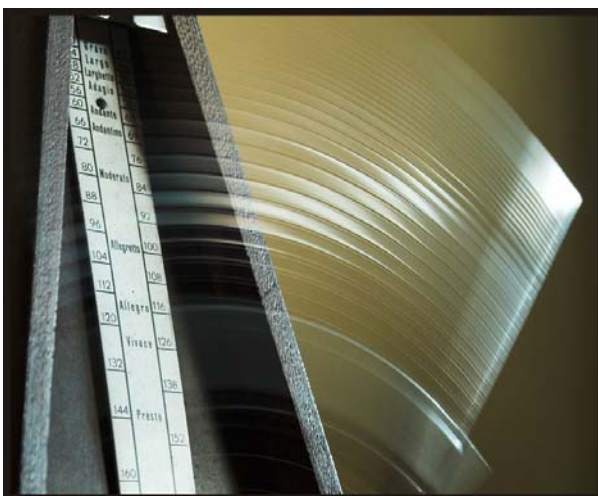
1. BEAT

Have you ever heard your heart beat? If you pay attention when you are alone you can hear a continuous ticking, each one being a beat or a pulse. When you listen to a song you can also feel the same thing, can't you?



When talking about music the pulse must be constant and regular.

2. TEMPO



The tempo of a piece of music is its speed, in other words, the beat speed. There are two ways of specifying a tempo. Metronome markings are absolute and specific, they are given in beats per minute. A metronome is a musical tool that can give a beat-per-minute tempo

as a ticking

sound or a pulse of light. Other tempo markings are verbal descriptions which are more relative and subjective. Both types of markings usually appear above the staff, at the beginning of the piece.




Four four time
(quarter note gets one beat)
88 beats, or 88 quarter notes, per minute




Cut time (two two)
(half note gets one beat)
120 beats, or 120 half notes, per minute



Six eight time
Probably dotted quarter gets one beat
80 dotted quarters per minute
(This would be the same speed as )



Six eight time
144 eighth notes per minute
Could be conducted in a fast six (eighth note gets one beat)
or in a slow two (dotted quarter gets one beat: about )

2.1. TEMPO TERMS

A tempo marking is a word or phrase that expresses the composer's idea of how fast the music should be felt. How fast a piece of music is felt depends on several different things, including the texture and complexity of the music. Tempo instructions are traditionally given in Italian. Some Common Tempo Markings are:

- *Grave* - very slow and solemn
- *Largo* - slow
- *Larghetto* - not quite as slow as largo
- *Adagio* - slow
- *Lento* - slow
- *Andante* - literally "walking", a medium slow tempo

- *Moderato* - moderate, or medium
- *Allegretto* - Not as fast as allegro
- *Allegro* - fast
- *Vivo, or Vivace* - lively
- *Presto* - very fast
- *Prestissimo* - very, very fast

Usually, tempo indications may be accompanied by other Italian words:

- *(un) poco* - a little
- *molto* - a lot
- *piu* - more
- *meno* - less
- *mosso* - literally "moved"; motion or movement



2.2. GRADUAL TEMPO CHANGES



Gradual changes in the basic tempo are also common in music, and these have their own set of terms.

Gradual Tempo Changes:

- *accelerando* - (abbreviated accel.) accelerating; getting faster
- *ritardando* - (abbrev. rit.) slowing down
- *ritenuto* - (abbrev. riten.) slower
- *rallentando* - (abbrev. rall.) gradually slower
- *rubato* - don't be too strict with the rhythm; while keeping the basic tempo, allow the music to gently speed up and relax in ways that emphasize the phrasing
- *poco a poco* - little by little; gradually
- *Tempo I* - ("tempo one" or "tempo primo") back to the original tempo (this instruction usually appears above the staff)

3. ACCENT, MEASURE AND RHYTHM

Measure organizes the beats or pulsations in groups of two, three and four. A measure (or bar) is such a pattern of a group of beats which begin with a stressed beat. This stressed beat is the natural accent of the measure and always falls on the first beat.



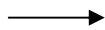
to SURF THE NET!

Go to our favourite web and look at the examples moving the mouse into them!

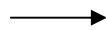
www.teoria.com



Tutorials



Reading Music



Beats and Measures



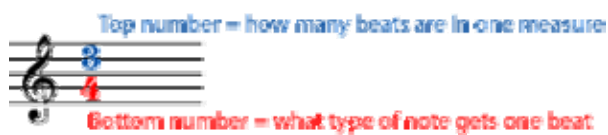
Music cannot exist without time. The placement of the sounds in time is the rhythm of a piece of music. As music must be heard over a period of time, rhythm is one of the most basic elements of music.

It is very common to find measures having groups of two, three or four beats. We call them duple, triple and quadruple meters. The time signature appears at the beginning of a piece of music. The meter of a piece of music (the measure) is its basic rhythm; the time signature is the symbol that tells you the measure of the piece and how (with what type of note) it is written. To separate measures we use the barline.



The time signature tells you two things: how many beats are in each measure, and what type of note gets a beat.

Reading the Time Signature



This time signature means that there are three quarter notes (or any combination of notes that equals three quarter notes) in every measure. A piece with this time signature would be "in three four time" or just "in three four".

Excercise 2

What are these pictures? Do you think this could be a kind of rhythm?



Exercise 3

Keep on surfing the net!

Look at these web sites:

http://www.musictechteacher.com/quiz_help_rhythm_rest1.htm

http://www.musictechteacher.com/quiz_music_rhythm_time001ft.htm

http://www.musictechteacher.com/quiz_see_saw_rhythms001.htm

http://www.musictechteacher.com/quiz_time_signs001.htm

Never is enough...

Are you bored? Look here:

<http://www.mayumana.com/> (The main page of the famous group.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6mLD3slbyk> (Look and learn)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWRgwSmDkLs&feature=related> (Look and learn)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vTW0BdTH-8&feature=related> (If they can, you can...)

Excercise 3

Group discussion:

Considering everything you have learned, what do you think about the following ideas? Discuss in groups.

“Rhythm is basic for the human life”

I agree because ...

I don't agree because ...