

LESSON 6

Date: _____

Rhythm ~ The organization of music in time.

Time Signature ~ Gives important information on how the rhythm will be organized. Time signatures in music are classified into simple, compound, or complex meters.

Meter ~ A recurring pattern of stresses or accents that provide the beat of music. The most common meters are duple (2), triple (3), and quadruple (4).


Note: The terms time/meter and beat/pulse are often used interchangeably. Time is a complex topic with many subtleties and layers.

The following are some of the more common time signatures you have encountered in your rhythm studies. In Level 3, Simple Time will be studied in more depth. Compound and Complex Time will be covered in Level 4.

SIMPLE TIME	COMPOUND TIME	COMPLEX TIME
$\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{8}$ $\frac{4}{16}$	$\frac{6}{2}$ $\frac{9}{4}$ $\frac{12}{8}$ $\frac{12}{16}$	$\frac{5}{2}$ $\frac{7}{4}$ $\frac{10}{8}$ $\frac{11}{16}$

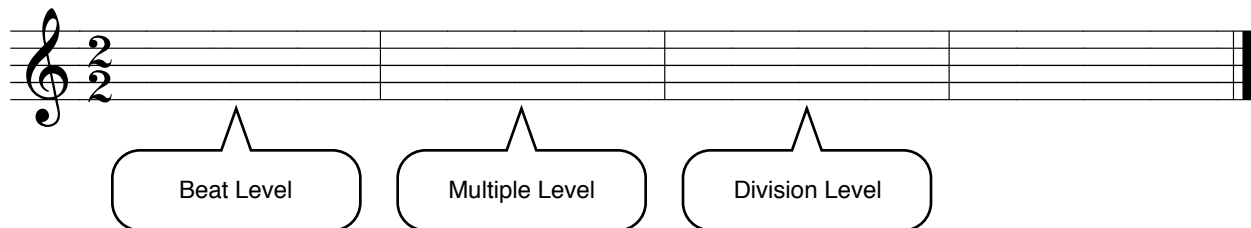
SIMPLE DUPLÉ TIME (**STRONG** WEAK)

The top number of the time signature is always 2. This means there are always 2 beats in a bar. The bottom number in time signatures represents the note that gets one beat. The following numbers are most commonly used:

 $\rightarrow 2$  $\rightarrow 4$  $\rightarrow 8$  $\rightarrow 16$

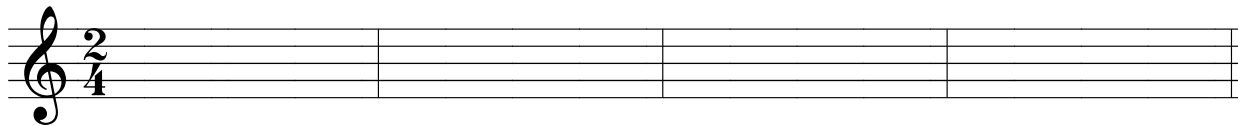
$\frac{2}{2}$ 2 beats in a bar
 $\frac{2}{2}$ the half note gets one beat

This time signature is often abbreviated as C and is commonly referred to as *cut time* or *alla breve*.

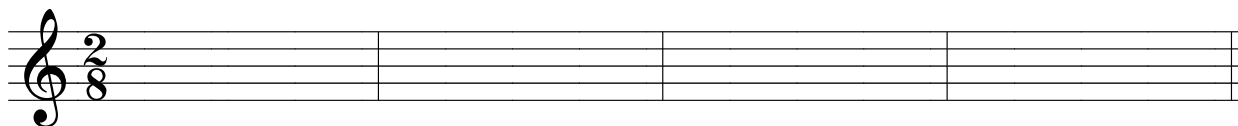


Beat Level Multiple Level Division Level

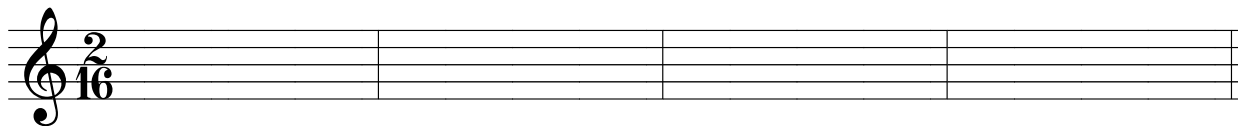
2 2 beats in a bar
4 the quarter note gets one beat



2 2 beats in a bar
8 the eighth note gets one beat

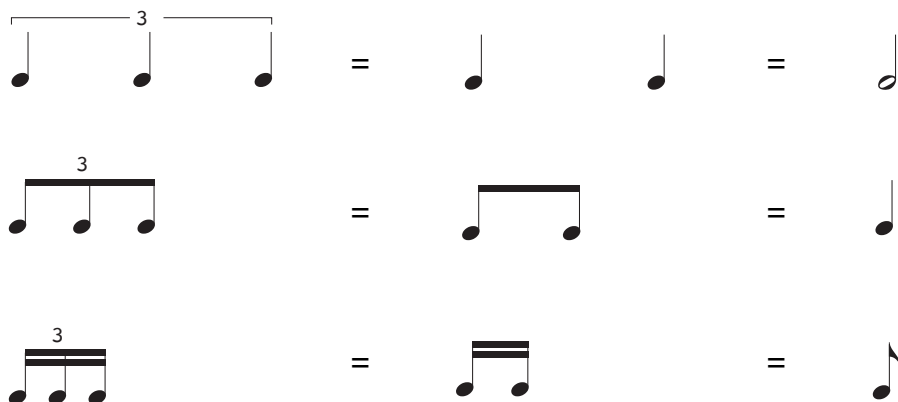


2 2 beats in a bar
16 the sixteenth note gets one beat



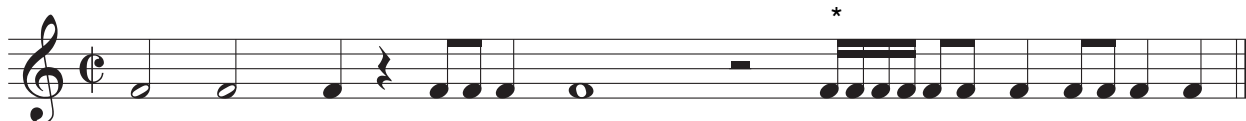
TRIPLETS

A group of three notes that are played in the time of two notes of the same value.

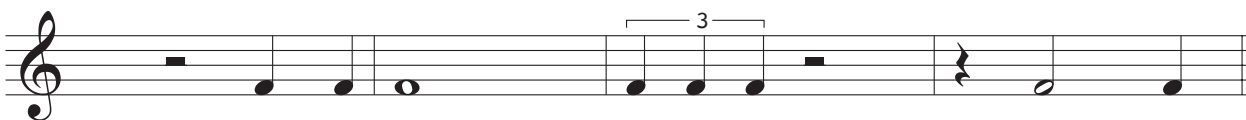
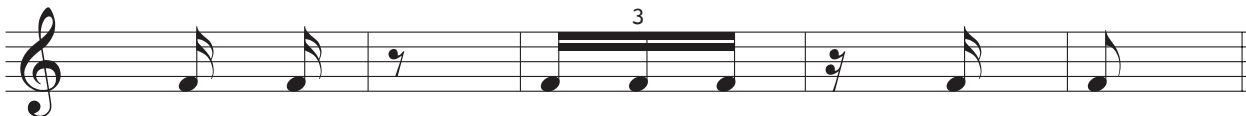


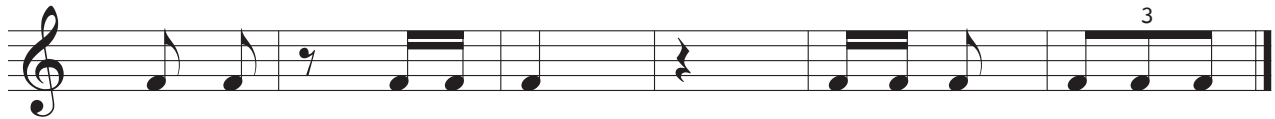
PRACTICE

1. Add bar lines to the following musical excerpts. Write the counting under each rhythm. Be sure each symbol of the counting is correctly aligned with the music.
 *Note: Counting is generally only used up to the second division level. If music contains rhythms subdivided beyond the second division level, only write the counting under those note heads to indicate the second division level counting.



2. Add time signatures to the following musical excerpts. Write the counting under each rhythm. Be sure each symbol of the counting is correctly aligned with the music.





3. Compose rhythms given each of the following time signatures. Use each of the following note and rest values at least once, including all triplet examples included in this lesson.

