

# 4. Rhythm

## Tempo and beat

### SECTION 1 MUSICAL CONTEXT

1. Answer true (T) or false (F):

- F The bar-line is placed on the staff horizontally.
- T Accented beats are those that stand out over others.
- T Beat is like the internal pulse of the music.
- F Duple metre has 4 beats.
- F 12/8 measure has 8 beats.
- T Mixed metre is the result of using various different time signatures in the same piece.
- T Simple time signatures indicate a binary subdivision.
- F 3/4 time has 4 crotchets.

2. Write in the right term for the following phrases.

- The numbers you can find in the numerator of a simple time signature are 2, 3 and 4
- The mix of various metres is called mixed time signatures
- Simple time is a binary subdivision.
- Time signatures that have 6, 9 and 12 as the numerator are called compound time signatures
- Bars with beats that can be divided in three parts or thirds are in ternary form subdivision.

3. Fill in the blanks in the text, using the following words:

- quaternary
- stand out
- beat
- 4 beats
- binary
- 3 beats

Accented beats are those that stand out over others and help to determine the type of beat used in a piece of music. This gives rise to different metres, such as binary metre, which has 2 beats to the bar, ternary metre, which has 3 beats to the bar, and quaternary metre, which has 4 beats to the bar.



## SECTION 2 LISTENING

Next you should listen to various musical fragments so you can answer the practise questions given here.



### Listening 1

**Radetzky March 1848** Johann Strauss

Composed to honour Austrian Field Marshal Joseph Radetzky von Radetz, this piece is one of Strauss' best known works, being the obligatory closing piece to the New Year's concerts performed by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, with the audience clapping along to the beat.



Marches were originally used for parading soldiers, therefore they had a distinct beat. Listen carefully and answer the following questions.

a) Identify its beat, just as in the previous unit, and indicate its time signature.

- Largo     
  Adagio     
  Andante     
  Allegro     
  Presto

b) Find the accented beat and number the beats in the bar.

The accented beat appears every two beats.

c) Bearing in mind the number of beats, mark X the right option below.

- DUPLÉ TIME     
  TRIPLE TIME     
  QUADRUPLE TIME

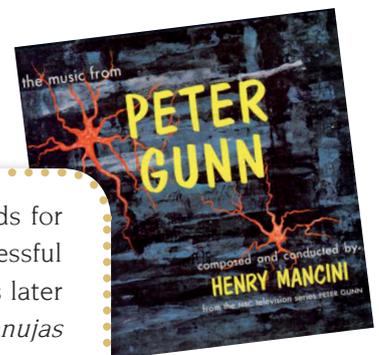


### Listening 2

**Peter Gunn (Musical Comedy) 1958** Henry Mancini

Mancini wrote this piece at the request of director Blake Edwards for the television series *Peter Gunn*, and remains one of the many successful collaborations between the two. This is a very popular theme, and was later used in many films, such as *The Blues Brothers*, known in Spain as *Granujas a todo ritmo*.

"The Music from Peter Gunn", based on the 1958 TV series, was put onto an RCA vinyl album which sold over a million copies, and received two Grammy awards.



a) Identify its beat and indicate the time signature used.

TERM (in Italian)	MEANING
<i>Allegro</i>	<i>Fast</i>

b) Once you've indicated the beat, find the accented beat. Note that the ostinato (sequence played by the bass, or riff) continues over one whole bar.

How many beats are there in each bar? *Four*

c) Mark the right answer with an X:

DUPLÉ TIME

TRIPLE TIME

QUADRUPLE TIME

d) If you have found the number of beats to the bar, it will be easy to indicate the number of bars used from the start until the beginning of the melody.

INTRODUCTION	MELODY
No. of bars <u>2</u>	<u>2</u>



### Listening 3

*You Ain't the First* 1991

Guns N' Roses

This hard rock band formed in 1985 in Los Angeles, California, has sold over 120 million albums in the world, including 55.5 million albums in the United States, having published six studio albums, three EPs, one live album and two compilation albums.

a) Mark the speed at which this fragment is played with an X.

Very slow

Slow

Medium tempo

Fast

Very fast

b) Now that you have given the beat and the tempo marking, write in the Italian tempo term used for this piece.

*Andante*

c) Find the accented beat and number the beats in the bar. The accented beat appears every three (indicate number) beats.

d) Bearing in mind the number of beats, mark the right option below.

DUPLÉ TIME

TRIPLE TIME

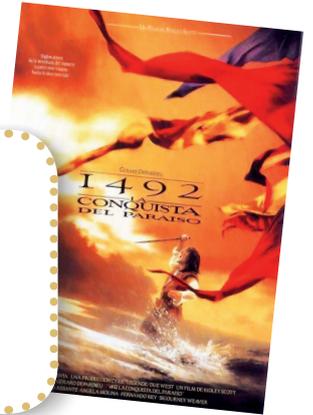
QUADRUPLE TIME

Let's continue practising with beats and bars.

### Listening 4

**The Conquest of Paradise** (Drama - Adventure) 1992 Vangelis

Composed by Evangelos Odysseas Papathanassiou (Vangelis) for the 5th centenary of the discovery of America, this music reflects the trials and tribulations of the ship's captain, Christopher Columbus, who travelled to the New World. On October 12, 1492, three ships called the *Pinta*, the *Niña* and the *Santa Maria* anchored off a small Caribbean island which was later to be named San Salvador.



a) Identify the tempo of this work.

Largo

Adagio

Andante

Allegro

Presto

b) Indicate the beat.

DUPLÉ TIME

TRIPLE TIME

QUADRUPLE TIME

### Listening 5

**Kraken** 1992 Chris Hazell

An interesting work by this musician and arranger who has made incursions into classical music and done arrangements for works such as *Pavane* and *Sicilienne* by Gabriel Fauré, *Gymnopédie No. 1* by Erick Satie or Claude Debussy's *Claire de Lune*, with innovative and surprising arrangements.



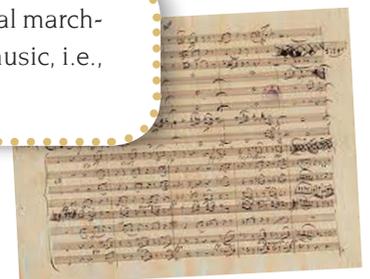
a) Identify the tempo of this work. Allegro

b) Indicate the beat. Quaternary

### Listening 6

**Military March** 1818 Franz Schubert

In the beginning marches were eminently military in nature, used for actual marching, but later some composers began to include them in so-called cultured music, i.e., music with no military purpose, as in this example.



a) Identify the tempo of this work. Allegro

b) Indicate the beat. Binary

In the exercises below, you have to discover the subdivision of the bars, and indicate whether they are in simple time or compound time.



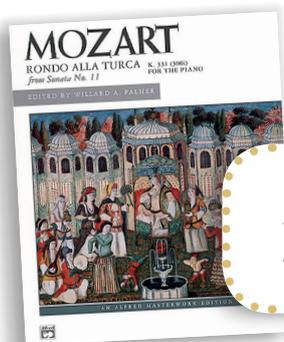
### Listening 7



**When a Man Loves a Woman (Drama) 1994** Michael Bolton

This song first performed by Percy Sledge was used in the film of the same name covered by Michael Bolton, about a family with a mother with a mental disorder due to alcoholism.

✓ Subdivision Ternary ✓ Time signature 6/8



### Listening 8



**Alla turca 1783** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

This is the 3rd movement of the *Piano Sonata No. 11 in A major, K. 331*, in which Mozart imitates the sound of Turkish Janissary bands, comprising highly trained soldiers in charge of guarding the Sultan.

✓ Subdivision Binary ✓ Time signature 4/4

### Listening 9



**Gladiator (Epic) 2000** Hans Zimmer

*Gladiator* by Ridley Scott, winning an Academy Award for Best Picture, tells the story of the fictional general Maximus Decimus Meridius, betrayed by ambitious Commodus, who murders his own father to seize the throne and become Emperor of Rome. Stripped of his rank and converted to a slave, Maximus triumphs as a gladiator and lives only to fulfil his aim – end the life of hateful Commodus the new Emperor and avenge the death of his family.

✓ Subdivision Binary ✓ Time signature 3/4



### Listening 10



**We Are the Champions 1977** Freddy Mercury

*We Are the Champions*, written by Freddy Mercury, has become an anthem for victories at sporting events, and was the official theme song for the 1994 FIFA World Cup. It is a so-called “power ballad”, starting slow and getting louder and louder.

✓ Subdivision Ternary ✓ Time signature 6/8

## SECTION 3 CULTURAL CONTEXT



1. Answer these questions with true (T) or false (F).

- ▶  **F** In the 20th century, musical notation was placed on a tetragram or four-line staff.
- ▶  **T** In the 20th century, musical notation was occasionally strange and even unknown.
- ▶  **F** In the 20th century, musical notation was with square-headed notes.
  
- ▶  **T** In the Renaissance, “hollow notes” or white mensural notation began to appear.
- ▶  **F** In the Renaissance, musical notation was occasionally strange and even unknown.
- ▶  **T** In the Renaissance, white mensural notation began to appear.
  
- ▶  **F** In Ancient Greece, music used a system of numbers to indicate notes.
- ▶  **T** In Ancient Greece, music used alphabetical signs based on the Greek language.
- ▶  **F** In Ancient Greece, music used signs called “neumes”.
  
- ▶  **F** In the Middle Ages, the pentagram or staff with 5 lines was used.
- ▶  **T** In the Middle Ages, the tetragram or staff with 4 lines was mainly used.
- ▶  **T** In the Middle Ages, square-headed notes were used.
  
- ▶  **F** In the Baroque, “neumes” were used to indicate the pitch of sounds.
- ▶  **F** In the Baroque period, white-headed notes began to appear.
- ▶  **T** In the Baroque period, the complete system of figures and measures as we know it today appeared.
  
- ▶  **F** In the Classical and Romantic periods, musical notation was different for each period.
- ▶  **T** In the Classical and Romantic periods, musical notation used present-day notation.
- ▶  **F** In the Classical and Romantic periods, musical notation used square-headed notes.



2. In this letter soup you will find the answers to questions about rhythm in Ancient Greece and the Middle Ages.

- a) Two types of duration modifiers were used in Greek music: brief and long
- b) Design on which music was written in the Middle Ages. tetragram
- c) Renaissance music theorist who introduced new theoretical concepts de Vitry
- d) Greek notation was based on the alphabet
- e) In the Middle Ages, notes were called neumes

X	T	T	I	S	U	K	W	O
T	E	B	A	H	P	L	A	S
R	T	O	L	N	U	D	R	T
T	R	P	I	A	D	E	N	X
I	A	H	B	O	S	V	T	S
W	G	V	R	A	C	I	R	V
A	R	I	I	I	V	T	O	G
N	A	X	E	Q	R	R	Y	N
C	M	A	F	E	P	Y	A	O
S	E	M	U	E	N	L	P	L

## SECTION 4 MUSICAL CREATION

### TIME SIGNATURES

#### BASIC TIME SIGNATURE INFORMATION



1. Answer true (T) or false (F) to the following statements.

- F Time signatures are written at the end of a score.
- F Time signatures are written at the beginning of a score before the clef.
- T Time signatures are written at the beginning of a score after the clef.
- F Time signatures are given in words.
- F Time signatures are given by two numbers, one on top of the other.
- T Time signatures indicate how many notes there are in one bar.
- T The number on top indicates the number of beats in each bar.
- F The number on the bottom indicates the number of beats in each bar.
- T The number on the bottom represents a note.

2. Complete the following table, drawing a note or writing a number, as appropriate.

Number	1	2	4	8	16
Note figure					

#### SIMPLE TIME SIGNATURES



3. Answer the following questions.

- How many beats are there in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time? 3
- What number represents the beats in simple quaternary time? 4
- How many crotchets to the bar are there in  $\frac{2}{4}$  time? 2
- How many crotchets are there to the bar in simple time signatures? 1
- How many quavers are there to the bar in simple time signatures? 2
- How many crotchets to the bar are there in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time? 6





8. Complete using the symbols you think are appropriate.

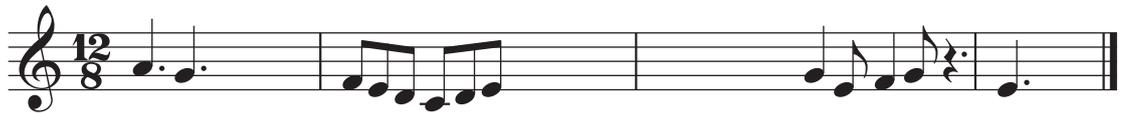
a)



b)



c)



9. Write in the time signatures corresponding to each different fragment.



### MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGIES

The CD ROM gives you a series of activities in which you can practise what you've learned in this Unit.

