

# Time and Metre

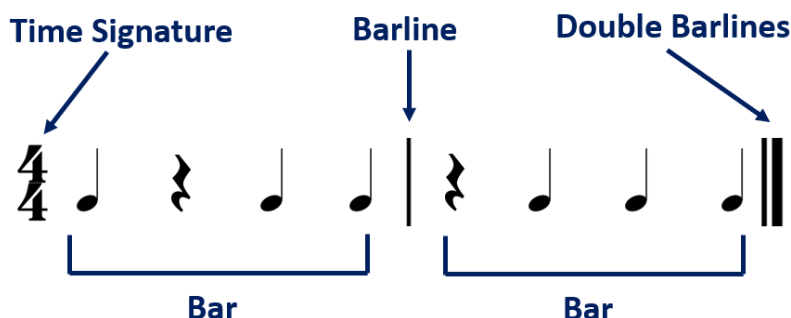


Name \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

A single beat is a basic unit of musical time.

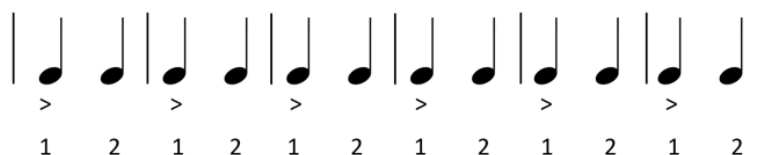


Beats are grouped together to make a repeating pattern – normally made up of twos, threes or fours. The repeating pattern of beats gives us the **METRE** or **TIME** of the music, shown by the **TIME SIGNATURE** at the start of a piece of music. Each repetition of the beat-pattern is called a **BAR** and bars are separated by vertical lines called **BARLINES**. A **DOUBLE BARLINE** always comes at the end of a piece of music or section of music.



Some beats carry a stronger accent than others, and the first beat of the bar usually carries the strongest accent or emphasis. The following patterns show the 12 crotchets at the top of this page turned into 3 different beat-patterns, or **METRES**:

## Simple Duple Metre Two beats to a bar



## Simple Triple Metre Three beats to a bar



## Simple Quadruple Metre Four beats to a bar



**ACTIVITY 1:** Work out whether the following rhythm patterns are in:

- **SIMPLE DUPLÉ METRE** (two beats in a bar)
- **SIMPLE TRIPLE METRE** (three beats in a bar) or
- **SIMPLE QUADRUPLE METRE** (four beats in a bar)

a) 

This rhythm is in

b) 

This rhythm is in

c) 

This rhythm is in

d) 

This rhythm is in

**3** If a rhythm is in **SIMPLE TRIPLE METRE** (three beats to a bar), how can we indicate the note length of the pulse? This is done by using a **TIME SIGNATURE**. A **TIME SIGNATURE** is made up of two numbers. The top number tells us how many beats there are in each bar and the bottom number tells us what types or note values these beats are. The bottom number acts as a type of musical code: these numbers show how many notes go into a **SEMIBREVE**.



- 1 = Semibreve
- 2 = Minim
- 4 = Crotchet
- 8 = Quaver
- 16 = Semiquaver



4/4 is a very common time signature in music and composers often write a curly “C” meaning **COMMON TIME** instead of writing out the 4/4 time signature.

**ACTIVITY 2**

Look at the following time signatures and write out their meanings as the number and type of beats in each bar. The first one has been done for you.

- a)  $\frac{3}{4}$       b)  $\frac{6}{8}$       c)  $\frac{3}{2}$       d)  $\frac{2}{4}$       e)  $\frac{3}{8}$       f) **C**

a) Three crotchets beats in each bar

- b)  
c)  
d)  
e)  
f)

**ACTIVITY 3**

Look again at the rhythms from Activity 1. Write the correct time signature at the start of each rhythm.

a) 





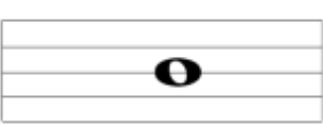

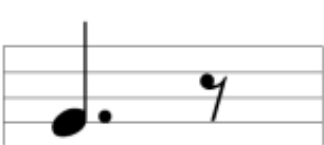






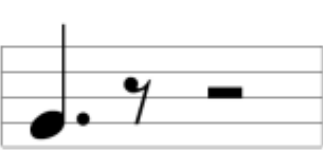







b) 

c) 

d) 

**ACTIVITY 4**

Tick the correct time signature for each bar of music.

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- d) **Two crotchet beats in each bar**
- e) **Three quaver beats in each bar**
- f) **Four crotchet beats in each bar (common time)**

**ACTIVITY 3**

Look again at the rhythms from Activity 1. Write the correct time signature at the start of each rhythm.

a) **3**  
**4**

b) **4**  
**4**

c) **2**  
**4**





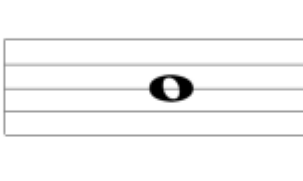
















d) **4**  
**4**

**C**

For d) also accept:

**ACTIVITY 4**

Tick the correct time signature for each bar of music.

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