**Unit 1: Simple and Compound Meters**

**8 Time Signature**

The top number in a time signature tells us how many beats are in each measure, and the bottom number tells us which kind of note gets one beat.

When a time signature has an 8 on the bottom, an eighth note (not a quarter note) gets one beat!

\[ \boxed{\text{\(\frac{8}{8}\)}} = 1 \text{ beat} \]

**Whole notes, half notes and half rests are not used in 8.**

When you see the time signature \(\frac{8}{8}\), think \(\frac{6}{8}\) (6 eighth notes) in every measure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note Type</th>
<th>Beats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eighth</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dotted Quarter</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dotted Half Note</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Eighths</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter-Eighth</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth Rest</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter Rest</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dotted Quarter Rest</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Rest</td>
<td>Rest a whole measure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strong and Weak Beats**

Certain beats are felt more strongly than others in the different time signatures. The first beat is almost always felt as a strong beat or **primary beat**. Half-way through the measure is the second strongest or **secondary beat**.

In the following examples, accents \(>\)'s are used to mark **primary** (the strongest) beats and tenutos \(\_\)'s are used to mark the **secondary** (second strongest) beats. Weak beats are not marked.

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{2}{4} & \quad \frac{\text{\(>\)}}{\frac{\frac{\frac{8}{8}}{\frac{8}{8}}}{\frac{8}{8}}} \quad \frac{\text{\(>\)}}{\frac{\frac{8}{8}}{\frac{8}{8}}} \quad \frac{\text{\(>\)}}{\frac{\frac{8}{8}}{\frac{8}{8}}} \\
\text{1 + 2 +} & \quad \text{1 + 2 +} \\
\frac{4}{4} & \quad \frac{\text{\(>\)}}{\frac{\frac{8}{8}}{\frac{8}{8}}} \quad \frac{\text{\(>\)}}{\frac{\frac{8}{8}}{\frac{8}{8}}} \quad \frac{\text{\(>\)}}{\frac{\frac{8}{8}}{\frac{8}{8}}} \\
\text{1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +} & \quad \text{1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +} \\
\frac{3}{4} & \quad \text{\(>\)\(>\)\(>\)\(>\)} \\
\text{1 + 2 + 3 +} & \quad \text{1 + 2 + 3 +} \\
\frac{6}{8} & \quad \text{\(>\)\(>\)\(>\)\(>\)} \\
\text{1 2 3 4 5 6} & \quad \text{1 2 3 4 5 6}
\end{align*}
\]
**Simple Meters**

If the main beats can be subdivided into **two** equal parts, then the meter is called *simple*.

- **2 main beats**
  - $\frac{2}{4}$
  - Subdivide: $\frac{2}{4} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$

- **3 main beats**
  - $\frac{3}{4}$
  - Subdivide: $\frac{3}{4} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$

- **4 main beats**
  - $\frac{4}{4}$
  - Subdivide: $\frac{4}{4} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$

**Compound Meters**

If the main beats can be subdivided into **three** equal parts, then the meter is called *compound*.

- **2 main beats**
  - $\frac{6}{8}$
  - Subdivide: $\frac{6}{8} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$

- **6 main beats**
  - $\frac{6}{8}$
  - Subdivide: $\frac{6}{8} \rightarrow \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}$

The time signature $\frac{6}{8}$ feels like two groups of three eighth notes.

$\frac{6}{8}$ is a compound meter.

- **feel:**
  - $\frac{6}{8}$
**All About Rhythm and Meters**

A. Label each example as a simple meter (S) or a compound meter (C) in the boxes provided.

B. Write in the counts below each rhythm.

C. Use '>’s to mark the primary beats. Use ‘–’s to mark the secondary beats. (Only $\frac{4}{4}$ and $\frac{6}{8}$ have secondary beats.)

D. Play and count the rhythms.

1. $\frac{3}{4}$

2. $\frac{6}{8}$

3. $\frac{4}{4}$

4. $\frac{2}{4}$

5. $\frac{4}{4}$

6. $\frac{6}{8}$

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*When you play and count a rhythm, play loudest on the strong beats.*
A. Provide one note or rest to complete each of the measures below.

1.  

2.  

3.  

B. Provide barlines for each of the rhythms. Write in the counts.

1.  

2.  

3.  

1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6
Fill in the empty squares of the 8 rhythm puzzle with notes or rests to complete each equation.
Allie has been studying $\frac{3}{8}$ time in her music lessons. She has recorded some of the goals for the highest scoring $\frac{3}{8}$ soccer game in history in note values on the scoreboard. To find out who won this incredible game, add the total counts written on each team’s soccer balls to the counts already on the scoreboard. Write each team’s total in the space provided. Remember, in $\frac{3}{8}$ meter an eighth note receives one count.