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Unit 1

Time Signatures and Rhythm

Time Signatures

The **time signature** is the two numbers written at the beginning of a piece.

- The top number tells how many beats are in each measure.
- The bottom number tells what kind of note gets one beat.

In a time signature with a 4 on the bottom, the **quarter note** gets one beat.

In a time signature with an 8 on the bottom, the **eighth note** gets one beat.

1. Tell how many beats in each measure for these time signatures.

4 Beats 3 beats 2 beats 6 beats

2. What kind of note will get one beat in $\frac{4}{4}$? quarter

3. What kind of note will get one beat in $\frac{6}{8}$? eighth

4. Write in the counts for these rhythms. Play and count aloud.

From *Old French Song* by Tchaikovsky

From *Eccossaise* by Beethoven

* Use a + sign for the word "and".

From *Le Petit Rien* by Couperin

From *Song* by Kabalevsky

From *Romance* by Czerny

5. Write the correct time signature for each example.

Write in the counts. Play and count aloud.

From *Arabesque* by Burgmüller

From *Minuet* by Handel

From *Wild Horseman* by Schumann

From *Sonatina* by Biehl

Sixteenth Notes

One sixteenth notes has two flags.

Two or more sixteenth notes are connected with a double beam.

Four sixteenth notes equal one quarter note.

One sixteenth rest:

7. Clap and count these rhythms.

Dotted Eighth Note Rhythms

The dotted eighth note is often followed by one sixteenth note.

The dotted eighth note is equal to three sixteenth notes.

The dot adds half of the value of the note.

8. Clap and count this rhythm.

9. Write in the counts. Clap and count aloud.