

Unit 1

Hemiola

Hemiola is a change of meter that occurs without a change of time signature. The change is usually from triple meter to duple meter or vice versa. The change of meter is created by the displacement of strong and weak beats through use of accent signs (*fz*) or by the grouping of notes in the melodic line.

In the example below, the hemiola is created with the use of accent signs (*fz*). The numbers above the staff show the counts according to the time signature, and the counts below the staff show the change to simple duple meter.

From *Impromptu, Op. 90, No. 4*, by Schubert
(*Piano Repertoire: Romantic & 20th Century, Level 10, page 7*)

In the second measure of the example below, the hemiola is created by the grouping of notes in the melodic line. The numbers above the staff show the counts according to the time signature, and the counts below the staff show the change from compound duple to simple triple meter.

From *Intermezzo, Op. 119, No. 3*, by Brahms

In the example below, the hemiola is created by the grouping of notes in the second measure. The numbers inside the staff show the counts according to the time signature, and the counts below the staff show the change from simple triple to compound duple meter.

From *Courante (English Suite No. 2)* by Bach