



THE CLIBURN

CLIBURN KIDS

with Buddy Bray



EPISODE 6: STARTS WITH A B, PART 2
BRAHMS Waltz in A-flat Major, op. 39, no. 15

TODAY'S WORKSHEET

WHAT IS A WALTZ?

A waltz, like this one Brahms that wrote, is a type of ballroom dance that is performed in triple meter, or beat groups of 3. Beginning in 17th century Germany, the waltz is considered to be the mother of all present day ballroom dances. In the ballrooms of Vienna, Austria, it became popular to dance a faster version of the waltz. This version came to be known as the Viennese Waltz.

Let's watch a video of a group of dancers performing a Viennese Waltz: [CLICK HERE](#)



What did you notice about the steps the dancers were taking? Were they fast or slow? Big or small?

Did the dancers mostly stay in one place, or did they move all across the dance floor? _____

Now describe the music that Buddy plays on the video. Is it choppy or smooth? Cheerful or sad? _____

Based on what you heard, will the dancers move quickly or slowly? _____



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“FEELING” METER IN MUSIC

Meter is the rhythmic pattern made in music by putting together strong and weak beats in different groupings, and it is how we “feel” music. In our last lesson, we discussed time signatures. In music, time signatures tell us what kind of meter the music is. By looking at a time signature, a musician can see what meter the piece is in, and this gives them an idea of how the music will “feel.” A waltz is always in **triple meter**, or beat groupings of 3.

Think again about the kind of steps the dancers were taking. Did you notice how some steps were big and some were smaller? We can think of the big steps as falling on strong beats, and the smaller steps falling on weak beats. The dancers were stepping on the strong beat, which in triple meter falls on beat 1. **Let’s try it ourselves!**

Start counting out loud to 3 at a steady pace, and clap along to help feel the beat.

1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

Now take a big step forward every time you say “1”, and stand in place for counts 2 and 3. You can also clap louder, or say “1” louder than “2” or “3”. Chances are, you will start doing one or both of those things automatically as you start to feel the pulse of the music!

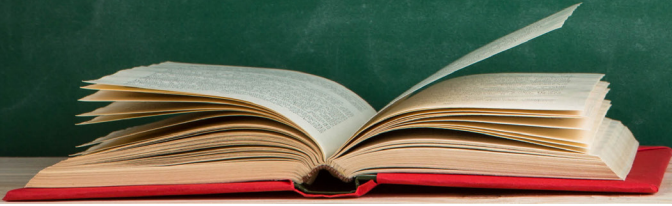
1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3
step! step! step!



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How do we define **meter** in music? _____

What is **triple meter**? _____

BONUS!

Now that we know what triple meter is, look up the terms below to answer the questions.

What is **duple meter**? _____

What about **quadruple meter**? _____



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LEARN ABOUT THE COMPOSER!

JOHANNES BRAHMS 1833–1897

Johannes Brahms was born in Hamburg, Germany. His father was a musician and his mother was a seamstress. His father began teaching piano to Brahms when he was 5 years old, hoping that he would become good enough to help support the family.

“Hannes,” as his family called him, startled his father before his first lesson by naming each note without looking at the keyboard. He also amazed his father by inventing his own system of musical notation, not knowing that one had already been invented!

His father insisted that he play in some taverns and inns as soon as he was able, but this ended when he was 10 years old and gave his first public concert. Brahms started studying with a well-known teacher and was a dedicated student who progressed rapidly.

Brahms was a very shy man throughout his life, and it was difficult for him to make friends. He felt most comfortable around other musicians, because he had a lot in common with them.

Brahms spent a number of years conducting, playing, and composing, all the time becoming better known throughout Europe. He spent his older years in Vienna. He worked slowly and carefully on his compositions until he felt that they were the best that they could be. He was one of the greatest composers of the Romantic period.

