**TIME SIGNATURES**

A time signature tells musicians important information about the music they are about to play. The bottom number tells us what note value, or type (half note, quarter note, eighth note, etc.) gets the beat. The top number tells us how many beats (or counts) will be in one measure of the music.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Signature</th>
<th>Beat Duration</th>
<th>Number of Beats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \frac{3}{2} )</td>
<td>( \frac{3}{2} = )</td>
<td>( \frac{3}{2} = )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \frac{3}{4} )</td>
<td>( \frac{3}{4} = )</td>
<td>( \frac{3}{4} = )</td>
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<tr>
<td>( \frac{3}{8} )</td>
<td>( \frac{3}{8} = )</td>
<td>( \frac{3}{8} = )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So for a piece of music in 4/4 time, like in the image to the left, there will be 4 beats in each measure, and the quarter note (represented by the number 4) will be the note that gets the beat.

**TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

\( \frac{2}{4} \) beats per measure  
__________ note gets the beat

\( \frac{6}{8} \) beats per measure  
__________ note gets the beat

\( \frac{2}{8} \) beats per measure  
__________ note gets the beat
COUNT IT OUT!

Below is the rhythm that you clapped along with Buddy during the piece. Using “ta” for quarter notes, and “ti” for eighth notes, write out the rhythm above the notes on each line. Then, practice clapping each line!

\[
\begin{align*}
&\underline{\text{ta}} \quad \underline{\text{ta}} \quad \underline{\text{ti}} \quad \underline{\text{ti}} \quad \underline{\text{ta}} \\
&\underline{\text{ti}} \quad \underline{\text{ti}} \quad \underline{\text{ti}} \quad \underline{\text{ti}} \quad \underline{\text{ta}} \\
&\underline{\text{ti}} \quad \underline{\text{ti}} \quad \underline{\text{ti}} \quad \underline{\text{ti}} \quad \underline{\text{ta}}
\end{align*}
\]

How many beats per measure are there in this piece? _______

What note value gets the beat? _________________

BONUS!

One eighth note is HALF the value of one quarter note. If we are playing a piece in 2/4 time, like the one above, there can be up to _____ eighth notes in each measure.

If one half note is TWICE the value of one quarter note, how many half notes can be in one measure of 2/4 time? _____
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN 1770–1827

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany. His father and grandfather were both musicians. Beethoven started lessons in piano, violin, and composition with his father when he was 4 years old.

Later in his life, Beethoven moved to Vienna, Austria. In Vienna, he was able to meet some of the finest musicians of his day, and to play his music for them. This was a happy time for him, and he had great success.

Beethoven loved nature, and he spent many holidays in the park where he took long walks. Sometimes, he saw things outdoors that inspired him to write music.

Beethoven started to lose his hearing when he was about 30 years old. This meant that he could not give concerts anymore, but he did keep writing music. In fact, some of his most famous pieces were written after he lost his hearing.

Beethoven became known as one of the greatest pianists of his day, and is considered one of the greatest composers in history. He played an important role in the development of classical music as a whole, and music for the piano in particular.