



NAME _____

DATE _____

Many Meters: Dances
 BRAHMS Waltz in A-flat Major, op. 39, no. 15
 BRAHMS Waltz in C-sharp Major, op. 39, no. 6

COUNTING IN MUSIC



"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 music, time signatures tell us in what kind of meter the music is written. By looking at a time signature, you can see what meter the piece is in and determine how the music will "feel."

1 2 3

1 2 3

1 2 3

A waltz is a type of ballroom dance which is always in **triple meter**, or beat groupings of 3. Think about the kind of steps the dancers will be taking. Not all steps they take are equal in size, with some steps bigger than the others. We can think of the big steps as falling on strong beats, and the smaller steps falling on weak beats. The dancers are taking bigger steps 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.

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
STEP!

1 2 3
STEP!

1 2 3
STEP!

1. How do we define meter in music?

2. What is triple meter?

3. What is the strong beat in triple meter? How about the weak beat(s)?



TIME SIGNATURES

Meter has a strong connection to the time signature of the music. In fact, the time signature tells us what kind of meter the music is in and how it might "feel." Meter can also help us identify what the time signature might be. We know that in a waltz, there are three beats per group, or in a measure. What is the time signature that has three beats per measure? Circle the correct answer.

2
4

4
4

3
4

5
4

What does the top number of the time signature mean? _____

What does the bottom number of the time signature mean? _____

BONUS QUESTION!

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?
