



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

HUMOR IN MUSIC  
 DETT Humoreske (Honey)  
 RACHMANINOV Humoresque in G Major, op. 10, no. 5

## WHAT IS SYNCOPATION?

In this episode, Buddy explains the ways music expresses humor. Let's find out how the composers create a joke or surprise using rhythm!

The two pieces of music introduced in this episode share the same time signature.

**2**  
**4**

### LET'S REVIEW!

A **time signature** tells musicians how to count the music. It is the two numbers at the beginning of the written music.

**2** The top number tells us how many beats are in one measure of music.

**4** The bottom number tells us what note value gets the beat. A quarter note is represented by the number 4.

In music written with a time signature  $\frac{2}{4}$ , there are \_\_\_\_\_ beats in a measure and \_\_\_\_\_ note gets the beat.

Which note is half the length of a quarter note? Circle the correct answer.



**HALF NOTE**



**EIGHTH NOTE**



**SIXTEENTH NOTE**



## STRONG BEATS AND WEAK BEATS

Fill in the measures below with the correct number of QUARTER NOTES in each measure.

2  
4



COUNT 1 2 1 2

Beats 1 and 2 are **strong beats**, each represented by a quarter note here.

Fill in the measures below with a correct number of EIGHTH NOTES in each measure.

2  
4



+ = and

COUNT 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 +

Beats 1 and 2 are still **strong beats**, represented by the first and third eighth notes in each measure. The second and fourth eighth notes in each measure are **weak beats** and are played more quietly than the eighth notes that fall on the strong beats. Try clapping these two measures while you count – make sure to clap louder on the strong beats!

Sometimes, strong beats and weak beats are flipped, and there is a sudden change in the rhythm and *feel* of music. This is called **syncopation**.

2  
4



COUNT 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 +

Buddy showed us this rhythm above in the *Humoresque* by Rachmaninov. Which are the strong beats in this rhythm example? Circle them. Try clapping and counting, making sure you emphasize the strong beats. This can be hard to do!