

#### CLIBURN KIDS

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# 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.



# 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 4** 

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

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  $rac{2}{4}$ , 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



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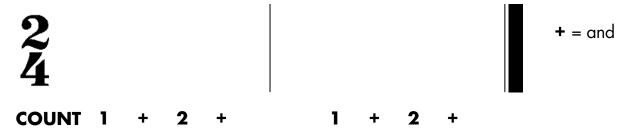
## STRONG BEATS AND WEAK BEATS

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



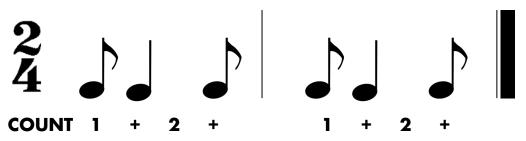
Beats 1 and 2 are **strong beats**, each represented by a quarter note here.

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



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**.



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!