THE CLIBURN

NAME_____   DATE_____

In Five
DESMOND "Take Five"

ODD METER

"Take Five" is a jazz standard written by saxophonist Paul Desmond in the late 1950s. It was originally recorded in 1959 and made famous by the Dave Brubeck Quartet. Two years later, it became a surprise hit and the biggest-selling jazz single ever. Watch this video of the Dave Brubeck Quartet performing it live!

ODD METERS

As Buddy explains in this episode, some pieces of music are a little harder to count! The piece we are hearing today is in 5, which is called an **odd meter**. An odd meter is simply a meter that does not fit within beat groupings of 2, 3, or 4, which are the most common ways to count in music.

Listen to Buddy play the piece and describe how it sounds. Is it steady or unsteady? Is there a pattern you notice? How does it make you feel?

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Does it sound a little bit like you're counting in both 3s and 2s? That's because you are! We can combine groupings of 3 and 2 to get the feel of a song in 5. Let's figure out how to put those beat groupings together so it matches the music!

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!*

Let's do the same thing counting in 2.

1₂ 1₂ 1₂ Count out loud to 2 first.   **1₂ 1₂ 1₂** Then add your step!
                                              STEP! STEP! STEP!

Now let's combine them to make 5. Combining 3 and 2 will always equal 5, but when we are putting music together, it matters which beat grouping comes first because it will change the feel of the music. Try the count and step exercise with the patterns in both boxes below. You can count to 5, or stick with the beat groupings of 2 and 3.

3 + 2 = 5 **1₂₃ + 1₂** ***1*** 2 3 **4** 5	**2 + 3 = 5** **1₂ + 1₂₃** ***1*** 2 **3** 4 5

Now listen again to Buddy play the music. Can you step in time as Buddy plays the music? It might feel a little strange! Color in the box with the correct beat groupings!