

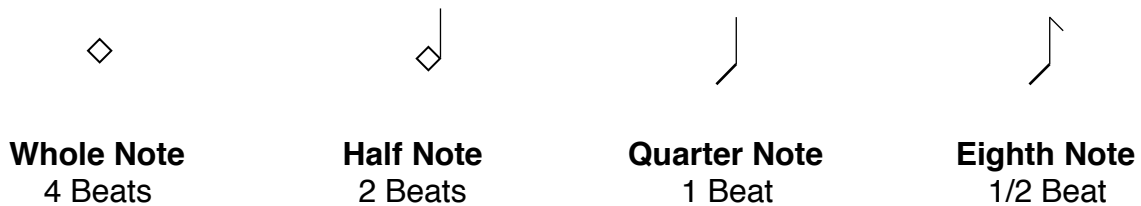
The Elements of Music

There are two main elements of music: Rhythm and **Pitch** (the highness or lowness of a note). Pitch has two elements: **melody** (single notes) and **harmony** (notes together).

Rhythm

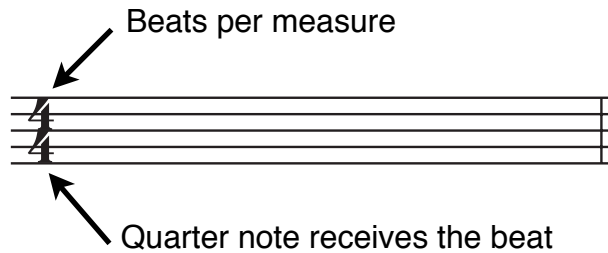
Rhythm is the time aspect of music. It is defined by a basic unit, the beat. Through the use of **accent** (emphasis) beats are grouped in patterns of two or three or combinations thereof ($4 = 2+2$). The beat can also be split into any number of subdivisions.

Below are some basic symbols used to indicate rhythm



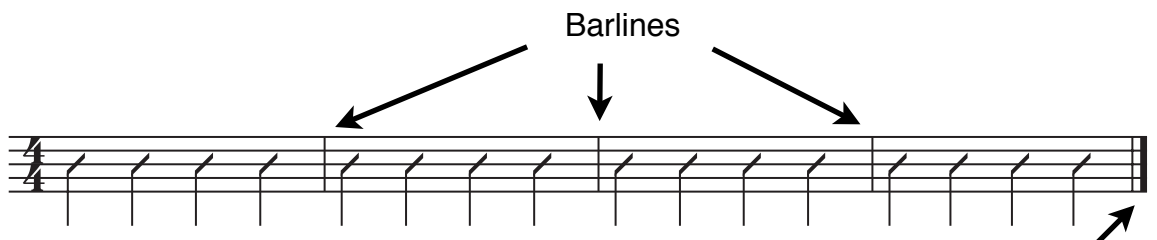
Time Signatures

A **Time Signature** is the ratio or abbreviation that appears at the beginning of a line of music. The top number indicates the beats per measure. The bottom number indicates the note value which receives the beat (i.e. if the bottom number is 4, the quarter note represents the beat).



Bar Lines

Bar lines divide the staff into its rhythmic grouping.



Final: the bar line followed by a thick line indicates the end of a piece of music.

Counting Rhythms

An effective way to practice reading rhythm is to clap the beat while saying the rhythm. In order to feel the tempo, clap one measure of beats before you say the rhythm. This is called a **count in**.

Rests: No Clap

clap clap clap clap clap clap clap clap clap

Count 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Counting Exercises

Exercise 1: Four measures, each containing a whole note.

Exercise 2: Four measures. Measures 1-3: four quarter notes; Measure 4: whole note.

Exercise 3: Five measures. Measures 1 and 3: two half notes; Measures 2 and 4: two quarter notes; Measure 5: whole note.

Exercise 4: Five measures. Measures 1 and 2: two half notes; Measure 3: four quarter notes; Measures 4 and 5: two half notes.