

Rhythm Guide

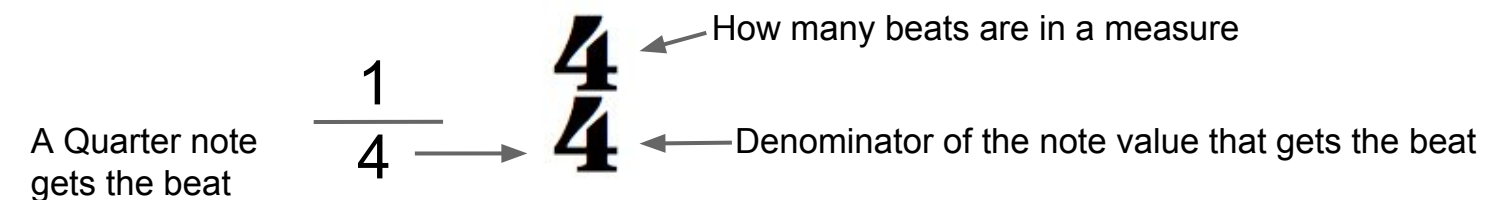
Notated music tells the musician which note to play (*pitch*), when to play it (*rhythm*), and how to play it (*dynamics and articulation*). This section will explain how rhythm is interpreted at OLCHS.

Time and Meter

The *beat* is the pulse of the music. When you tap your foot to a song, you are tapping along with the beat. Most music is played with a steady beat. These beats are separated into groups of strong and weak beats. The way in which these beats are organized is called the *meter*. In pop music, the most common meter is of four beats where beats 2 and 4 are emphasized. If you have ever listened to any kind of dance music, you can anticipate when the music is going to take a breath. This is because we are so used to the meter of 4 that we can predict when things are going to happen.

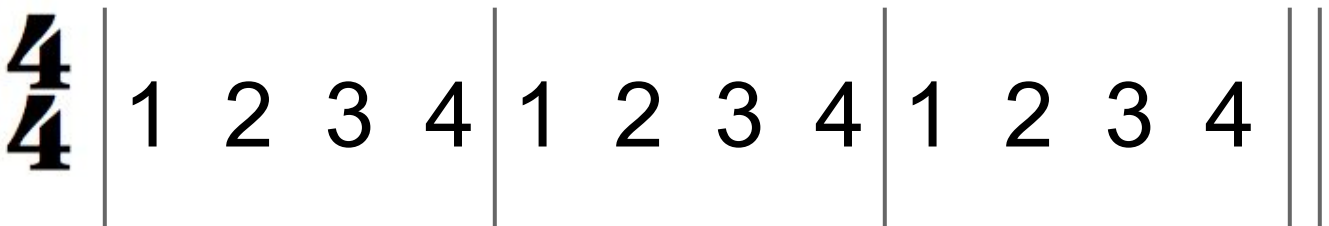
Time Signature

There are many other meters besides 4 though and the way in which they are shown is through a *time signature*. The time signature is at the beginning of a piece of music or whenever the meter changes in a piece. The top number shows how many beats are in a measure and the bottom shows the denominator (bottom part of a fraction) of the note value that receives the beat. The numerator (top part of a fraction) for the note value that receives the beat is always one.



Measures and barlines

A *measure* is a group of beats and they are separated by *barlines*. The end of a section of music is signified by a *double barline*. The counts start at 1 and go to however many beats are in the measure as dictated by the time signature. They repeat after every measure.



This example is in 4/4 time and is three measures long.