

RHYTHM

Irregular Time Signatures

Irregular time signatures occur when the music does not naturally fall into equal groupings. e.g. 5/4 where there are 5 crotchet beats in each bar is perhaps the most common of irregular time signatures. It is not possible to divide the grouping of notes equally within the bar. This results in an irregular grouping pattern of 3 and 2, or 2 and 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RU4ku-OSdo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UA6n7iKeYQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KJb8dFo9Qg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpbbualA3Ds&list=PLH5cx395pnB5LGFa02j-CZeKBYlw2nrbn>

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/irregular-time-signatures>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bt_S8ThbsbE

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/time-changes>

	Rhythm/tempo
Higher	irregular time signatures time changes
National 5	ritardando (rit) cross rhythms
National 4	syncopation 2 3 4 6 4 4 4 8 anacrusis accel(erando) rall(entando) a tempo
National 3	accent/accented beat/pulse BPM (beats per minute) 2, 3 or 4 beats in the bar on the beat/off the beat repetition slower/faster pause drum fill

RHYTHM

Time changes

Composers, particularly in the 20th century often make use of changing time signatures frequently in a piece of music.

e.g. Rite of Spring (Part 4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZtWAqc3qyk>

So So Gary – starts in 6/8 and then changes to 5/4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1XRKR_KI3g&t=58s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPcu_SC1ZO8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EGH8VLX7Ts>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KO6uU-DXW04>

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National 4	syncopation 2 3 4 6 4 4 4 8 anacrusis accel(erando) rall(entando) a tempo
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2, 3 or 4 beats in the bar (Simple time)

In simple time we use the time signatures 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4 to display whether the music has 2, 3 or 4 beats in the bar.

The beat subdivides into groups of 2 (the word "coffee" or 'je-nny' fits).

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/2-3-or-4-beats-in-the-bar>

Here are songs in 3/4 time:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrVMSNNyEHA&list=PL8b3whPUIVnyjLCTHK5s68MBwVb1G6WIA&ab_channel=LivricsChannelOfficial

• Quiz

https://mymusiconline.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/hotpots/i7_n3_beats_in_the_bar.htm

Simple and Compound Time

In compound time (6/8) The beat subdivides into groups of 3 (the word 'je-nni-fer fits).

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/simple-time>

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/compound-time>

Here are songs in 6/8 time:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-3vPxKdj6o&list=PLqnpCPR5O2PgtOT1YDAAdTAyt-c2ftP33&ab_channel=kellyclarksonVEVO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O71fetkCZo&list=PLjaZo4qOz-mw9gFT-xTc8LjeVy5kd0SO&ab_channel=aughrisbuzz

Rhythm/tempo

Higher

irregular time signatures
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National 5

ritardando (rit)
cross rhythms

National 4

syncopation
2 3 4 6
4 4 4 8
anacrusis
accel(erando)
rall(entando)
a tempo

National 3

accent/accented
beat/pulse
BPM (beats per minute)
2, 3 or 4 beats in the bar
on the beat/off the beat
repetition
slower/faster
pause
drum fill

Quiz https://mymusiconline.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/hotpots/i7_n4_simple_compound_time.htm

<https://www.liveworksheets.com/xk163729lip>

<https://www.liveworksheets.com/zj1639299bo>

On the beat/ off the beat

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/on-the-beat>

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/off-the-beat>

Rallentando/Ritardando - *Music gradually becomes faster*

Accelerando – *Music gradually becomes faster*

e.g. end of 'In the Hall of the Mountain King'

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzmO2EyQ7bs&ab_channel=musicafeijoo

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/rallentando>

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/adagio>

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/accelerando>

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/andante>

<https://mymusiconline.co.uk/dotted-rhythm>

A Tempo

An instruction to return to the speed that was played before the tempo changed. For example, if the music is allegro, then has a rallentando, followed by the instruction 'a tempo', it means that after the rallentando the music should return to allegro.

e.g. Rigaudon (Grieg) – Watch the score to see the rallentando and following a tempo.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SBap7zvME&t=81s&ab_channel=ThePochaccos

Anacrusis <https://mymusiconline.co.uk/anacrusis>

The notes which appear before the first strong beat of a musical phrase, particularly at the start of a piece. An anacrusis sounds as an upbeat.

The well-known song 'Happy Birthday to You' has an anacrusis. The word 'Happy' appears before the first beat of the bar (making this the anacrusis), and the word 'birthday' lands on the bar line. The well-known song 'Away in a Manger' has an anacrusis. The first syllable of 'Away' appears before the first beat of the bar (making this the anacrusis), and the second syllable lands on the bar line.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1buvlX9lbuw&ab_channel=musictheoryguy

• Quiz

https://mymusiconline.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/spotlights/i7_n4_anacrusis.htm

Accent/ accented <https://mymusiconline.co.uk/accents>

e.g. Stravinsky *Rite of Spring*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZtWAqc3qyk&list=RDwZtWAqc3qyk&start_radio=1&ab_channel=puffthecat

Syncopation https://mymusiconline.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/hotpots/i7_n4_syncopation.htm

Strongly accented notes playing off or against the beat. Syncopation occurs in all kinds of music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-DjsDxKSmY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3S3K00qD80g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3-WDGyDsSA>

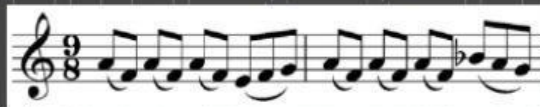
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GY_W3v0YeE

Cross rhythms <https://mymusiconline.co.uk/cross-rhythms>

- Term used to describe the effect of two notes being played against three (eg in piano music it might be groups of two quavers in the right hand and groups of triplets in the left).



- The term is also used to describe the effect that occurs when the accents in a piece of music are different from those suggested by the time signature (eg the division of 4/4 time into 3+3+2 quavers)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEsD11wFb6g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9GgmGLPbWU>

Drum fill <https://mymusiconline.co.uk/drum-fill>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bG3mkXOBLZo>