

ARTICULATION

(How the notes are played)

Not Dynamics...

Articulation is **the way** the performer plays / sings the note, not how loud they do it. That would be Dynamics instead.

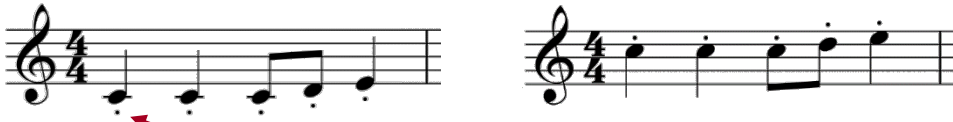
More Than One...

You can write more than one type of articulation for the same note. For example:



Staccato

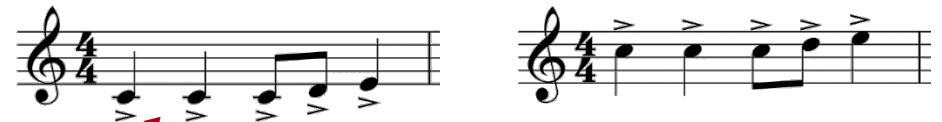
Staccato means short and detached / separated. **You will likely hear a gap between each note.*



Shown by writing a **dot** just above/below the head of the note.

Accented

Give extra emphasis or force to the marked notes.



Shown by writing an **accent** above/below the head of the note.

Legato

To play the music smoothly, without breaks between notes.

Slurred

Playing the notes in a legato style, without breaks between notes.



Shown with a **slur** on the score.

How? Some examples:

String Instruments - Play the notes without changing the direction of the bow.



Brass & Wind Instruments - Only tongue the first note, not the others.

Glissando

**You can glissando upwards or downwards*

A slide between two notes.

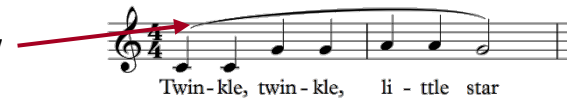
Marked with a **glissando** on the score.



Some Associated Markings On Vocal Music...

Phrase markings

Slurs drawn onto the score to show singers what to sing in one breath.



Syllabic

Where the music is written with one note per syllable.



Melismatic

Where the music is written with more than one note per syllable.



**A slur is used to show the notes on one syllable*

DYNAMICS

(The volume of the music)

Writing Dynamics

Dynamics can create contrast in music.

Dynamics can add expression to the music.

Dynamics can allow the listener to hear the most important lines in the music.

Describing What You Hear

Comment on any changes - don't sum up the whole example with one word (unless it doesn't change!)

The music starts... then... the music ends...

On The Score

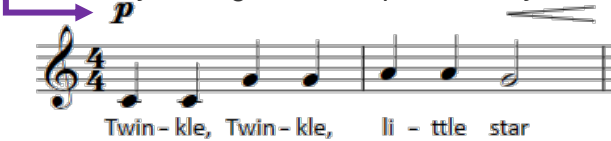
Dynamics are marked underneath the music, to show the instrument how loudly it should play:



If it is a piano, the dynamics usually go in-between the two staves:



For singers, dynamics usually go above the staff, so that they don't get mixed up with the lyrics:



Marking	Italian Term	Meaning
pp	Pianissimo	Very Quiet
P	Piano	Quiet
mp	Mezzo Piano	Moderately Quiet
mf	Mezzo Forte	Moderately Loud
f	Forte	Loud
ff	Fortissimo	Very Loud
	Crescendo	Getting Louder
	Diminuendo	Getting Quieter
sfz	Sforzando	Sudden Accent

Shh

!!!

Change gradually

Baroque Period: Dynamics were rarely used (no crescendos and diminuendos). Use of [Terraced Dynamics](#).

Classical Period: Some dynamics, to add contrast.

Romantic Period: Lots of crescendos & diminuendos and a large range of dynamics to add expression.

Writing Your Own Dynamics

If using crescendos and diminuendos, make sure you say how loud/quiet you want the music to get. This will clearly show what you want.



Key Signature

The sharps or flats at the start of a piece of music, showing what key the music is in.

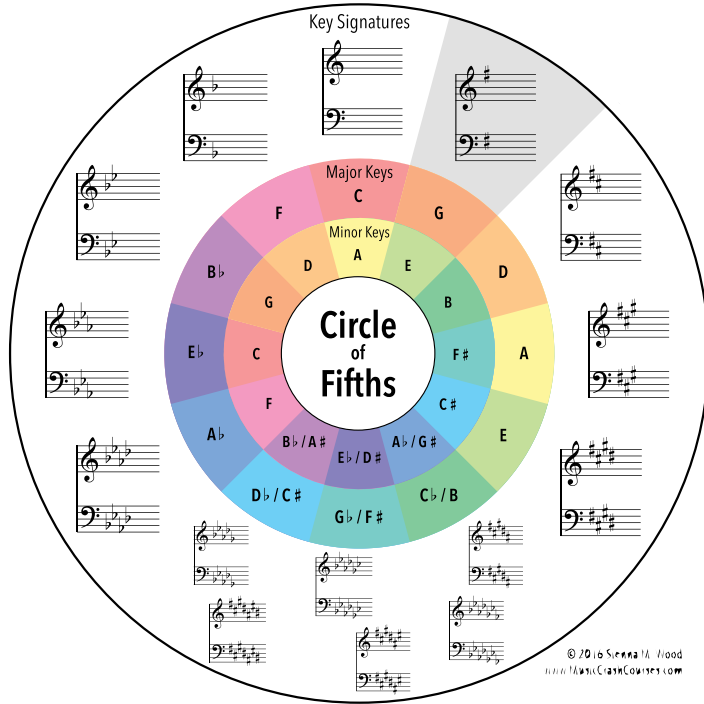
HARMONY & TONALITY

(The chords and keys used in the music)

Modulation

Musical word for key change. Most common changes: to **Dominant** or **relative Major/Minor**.

Major and Minor Key Signatures



*When you write music in a minor key you also need to raise the 7th note (leading note) up one small step - e.g. A minor uses G#, not Gs.

Identifying The Tonality...

- Tonal** - In a major or Minor Key
- Atonal** - There is no sense of key
- Modal** - Uses 'old-fashioned' scales called modes
- Pentatonic** - The music only uses 5 notes

Chords

- Triad** - A chord with three notes (See below)
- Power Chord** - Only playing the Root and Fifth of a triad (used in Rock music)
- Dissonance** - Clashing notes played together
- Consonance** - Notes that fit / sound nice together
- Primary Chords** - The three most commonly used chords used in music: I, IV, V
- Secondary Chords** - The other chords: II, III, VI, VII
- Chord Sequence** - The order the chords in a piece of music follow (containing cadences at the ends of phrases)

Cadences

The last two chords in a phrase. Only sounds 'complete' if ends on chord I.

Sounds Complete		
Perfect Cadence	V <i>Dominant</i>	I <i>Tonic</i>
Plagal Cadence	IV <i>Subdominant</i>	I <i>Tonic</i>
Sounds Incomplete		
Imperfect Cadence	I <i>Tonic</i>	V <i>Dominant</i>
Interrupted Cadence	V <i>Dominant</i>	<i>*Not chord I</i> Minor Chord

*Sometimes the final cadence of a piece in a minor key ends with a major chord instead of the expected minor chord. This effect is known as a **Tierce de Picardie**.

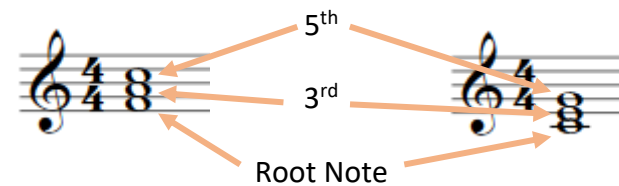
Diatonic

Music only uses notes that are found in the key signature of the piece

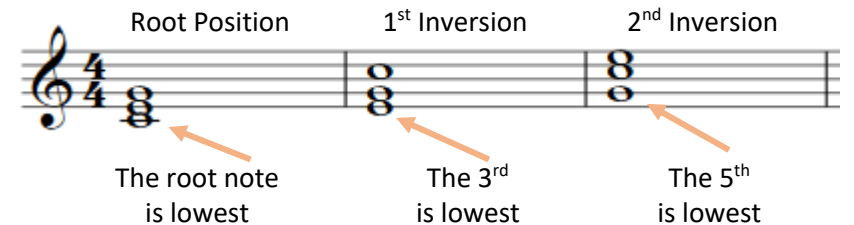
Chromatic

Music uses the notes found in the key of the piece but also adds in extra accidentals (# / b)

Triad A Chord with three notes:



Inversions Changing which note of a chord is the lowest sounding:



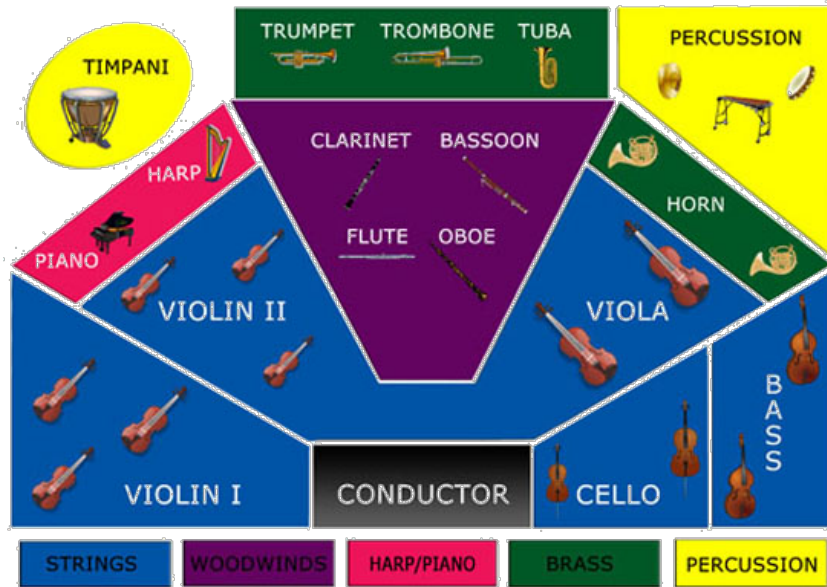
INSTRUMENTATION

(The instruments you can hear and what they are doing – sometimes called ‘orchestration’)

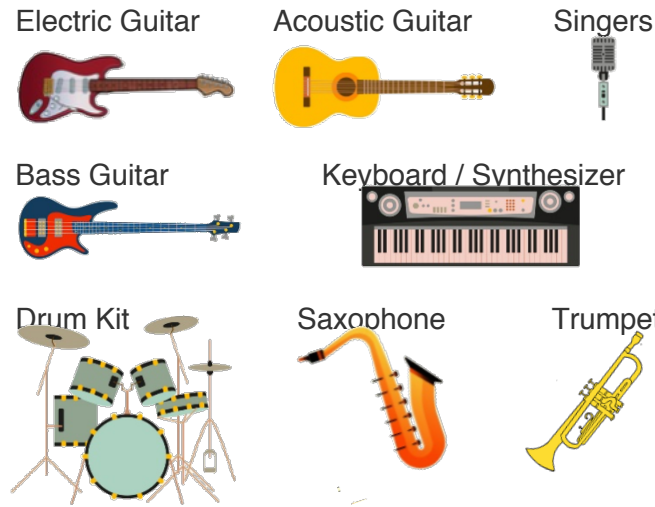
Instrumental Ensembles

- Solo - 1 performer
- Duet - 2 performers
- Trio - 3 performers
- Quartet - 4 performers

Instruments of The Orchestra



Rock & Pop Instruments



*Lead instrument = Often an electric guitar ('lead guitar'). Plays

Types Of Voices

Soprano	(Female)	HIGH
Treble	(Boy)	
Alto	(Female)	
Countertenor	(Male Alto)	
Tenor	(Male)	
Bass	(Male)	LOW

*SATB Choir: Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Bass

Jazz Instruments

Rhythm Section

Backup / Accompaniment for the melody. Sometimes still improvise and get solos.

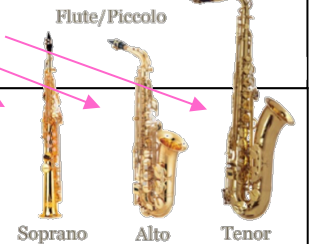
- *The Groove: Double Bass
- *The Beat: Drum Kit
- *The Chords: Piano (Sometimes Guitar)



Front Line Instruments

Instruments that play melodies / improvise. Stand in front of the rhythm section.

- *Trumpet
- *Trombone
- *Saxophone



Musical Periods

Baroque Period (1600-1750)

- *Small orchestra - Mostly Strings + Basso Continuo
- *Basso Continuo - The part given to instruments playing the bass line & chords accompanying the melody. (Harpichord, bass viol, organ, lute...)

Classical Period (1750-1810)

- *Basso Continuo gradually stopped being used
- *Pianoforte introduced & Clarinet invented
- *String Quartet very popular (Violin x2, Viola, Cello)

Romantic Period (1810-1910)

- *Piano music very popular (Instrument further improved)
- *Large Orchestra
- *Tone / construction of instruments improved

Instrumental Techniques - The way you play / use an instrument.

String Instruments

- *Pizzicato (Pizz.) - Plucking the strings
- *Arco / Bowed - Using a bow on the strings
- *Double Stopping - Playing two strings at the same time

String & Brass Instruments

- *Con Sordino (Con Sord.) - Playing with a mute (changes the sound produced)
- *Tremolo - Quickly repeating the same note ('trembling')

Voices

- *Falsetto - A technique used by men to sing at a much higher pitch

Voices, Brass, Woodwind and String Instruments

- *Vibrato – Make the note waver up and down to add expression

Some Examples

Other Vocal Terms

Acapella

Singing without any accompanying instruments.

Chorus

Music written for a choir.

Backing Vocals

Sing harmonies / support the lead singer.

MELODY

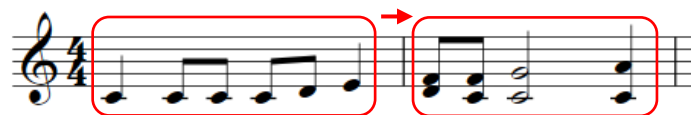
Direction Rising Falling



Repetition Doing the same thing again, without any changes.



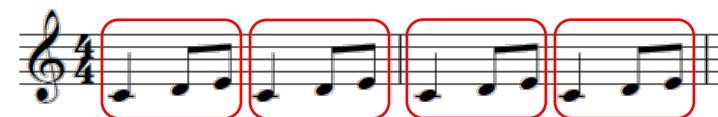
Contrast Doing something completely different.



Imitation Doing the same thing again, with some changes (similar).



Ostinato A short repeated idea.



Chromatic The melody uses notes that aren't in the scale / key of the piece.



Conjunct (Moving In Step) Type of movement



Disjunct (Moving In Leaps)



High or low.

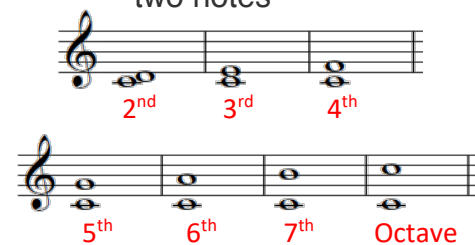
Range



Big or Small.



Interval The distance between two notes



*Count the start note & end note

Sequence Doing the same shape idea but at a different pitch.



Triadic The tune is based on notes from the chords / triads.



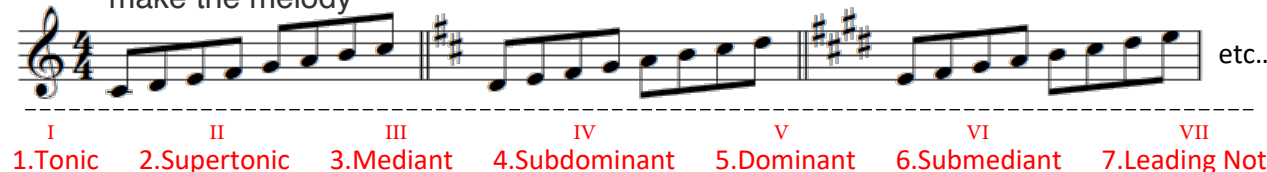
Ornaments Trills



Mordents



Scale The series of notes in a key that are used to make the melody



Reading Rhythms

You need to be able to read all the different note lengths if you want to pass GCSE music. If you keep forgetting, look over them again!

RHYTHM & TEMPO

(The Patterns Of Note Lengths & Silences)

(The Speed Of The Music)

Working Out The Tempo

Tap your toe to the pulse of the music and think, 'how fast am I tapping'.

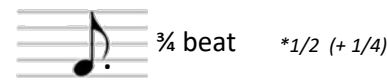
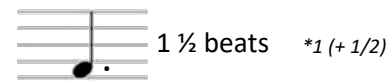
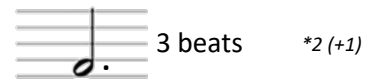
**If you tap your whole foot you might put off other pupils.*

Durations

Beats	Note	Rest	Name
4			Semibreve
2			Minim
1			Crotchet
1/2			Quaver
1/4			Semiquaver

Dotted Notes

If a dot is added to a note (or rest), add on half of what the note is already worth:



Pause

If this symbol is written, stop the pulse of the music & pause on the note.



Tempo Markings

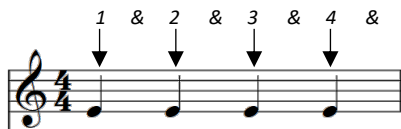
Marking	Meaning
Allegro / Vivace	Fast or Lively
Allegretto	Quite Fast (Not as fast as Allegro)
Moderato / Andante	Moderate / A Walking Pace
Adagio / Lento	Slowly
Accelerando	Gradually Speed Up
Ritardando / Rallentando rit. rall.	Gradually Slow Down
= 60 ^{*60bpm}	60 beats per minute (One every second)
= 120 ^{*120bpm}	120 beats per minute (Two every second)

Syncopation

Playing off (or in-between) the beat / pulse

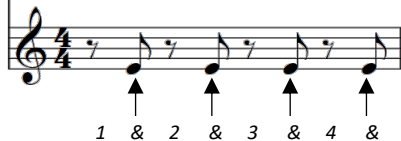
On The Beat

Playing on one of the beats that you would 'tap your toe' to



Off-beat

Playing in-between the beats you would 'tap your toe' to



Triplet

Three notes played evenly in the space of two notes:



Swung Rhythms

**A main feature of Jazz*

Written rhythms are played differently to give a swing feeling.



Rubato

**Translates as 'to steal time'*

Not sticking strictly to the tempo - to add feeling (*Romantic Period!*)

Structure – The order that things happen in.

First... then... this is followed by... at the end.

Binary Form - Music in two parts

Section A and Section B.



Section B contrasts Section A in some way. Usually both sections are repeated.

Rondo Form – The opening section keeps returning, with contrasting sections in between.

Section A, Section B, Section A, Section C, Section A.



STRUCTURE

Song Form

Intro Verse Chorus Middle 8 Bridge Outro

Ternary Form - Music in three parts

Section A, Section B, Section A.



The 2nd Section A can be an exact repeat of the 1st Section A, or a slightly altered version.

Strophic Form - Same music repeated each section.

Section A, Section A, Section A.



All verses have the same music.

e.g. Hymns, Folk Songs...

Minuet & Trio – Dance founded in 17th-18th Century Europe. In Triple time and moderato.

Both are in binary form. Trio is like a second Minuet but contrasting in some way.

Minuet		Trio		Minuet	
Section A (Repeated)	Section B (Repeated)	Section A (Repeated)	Section B (Repeated)	Section A (No Repeat)	Section B (No Repeat)
<i>In tonic key. Ends with key change.</i>	<i>In related key. Ends with change back to tonic key.</i>	<i>More contrast – new key or change of instruments. Ends with key change.</i>	<i>In related key. Ends with key change back to starting key of trio.</i>	<i>Keys are same as first time playing Minuet.</i>	

Variation Form – A theme / section is then followed by other sections (variations), changing and developing the first theme / section in different and imaginative ways.

Theme	Variation 1	Variation 2	Variation 3
<i>The original idea / section</i>	<i>There are many ways you can transform the theme: Change the instrumentation, tempo, key, harmony, metre, rhythm... Use imitation, inversion, sequence, diminution, augmentation... Developing harmonies without the tune... Introducing new tunes... Varying the style...</i>		

TEXTURE

Monophonic

Music with only one part (one note at a time).



*You can have as many players or singers as you want on the same part so long as it is the only part. No chords!

Antiphonal

Two groups of musicians play/respond to each other from two different performing positions.



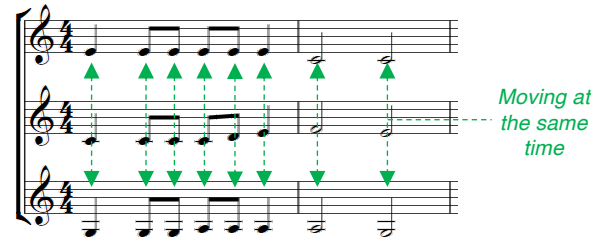
Melody & Accompaniment

A melody (tune) plus some accompanying chords or ideas.



Homophonic

All parts move in chords at the same time.



*Homophonic = same sound... they have the same rhythm

Polyphonic

Several (2 or more) independent lines of music.



*Polyphonic = many sounds... several (two or more) different tunes

Call And Response

One idea played/sung and then another performer(s) responding.



Octaves

When parts move together, an octave apart.



*Same note name but different pitch.

What Is the Instrument's Role

Melody – The tune.

Accompaniment – The parts supporting the tune.

Countermelody – A second melody that fits with the main tune.

Bass Line – The lowest sounding part.

Alberti Bass

Accompaniment found mainly in the left hand part of piano music.

Don't play all three notes of the triad together; break them up into four equal notes. Usually lowest, highest, middle, highest.



Why doesn't Mr Wright like playing an Alberti Bass? It gives him the EBGBs.

Pedal

A long or repeated note – usually in the bass.



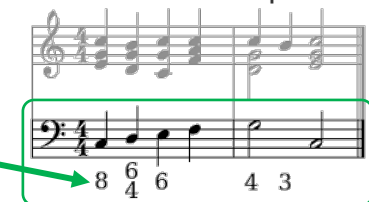
Drone

Long or repeated notes – usually a 5th apart.



Basso Continuo

The part given to instruments in The Baroque Period that played the bass line and chords, accompanying the melody, using **figured bass**.



*Harpichord, bass viol, organ, lute...

Common Time

4/4 is also known as common time. Instead of 4/4 you can write:



TIME SIGNATURE / METRE

(How the pulse is grouped into bars)

Cut Common Time

2/4 is also known as cut-common time. Instead of 2/4 You can write:



Time Signatures

Written at the start of the music (and anywhere it changes) to show how many beats there are per bar, plus what type of beat

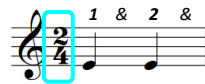
Simple Time Signatures **Each beat can be divided into two equal halves*



4 crotchet beats per bar



3 crotchet beats per bar



2 crotchet beats per bar

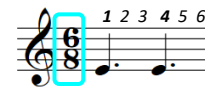
Compound Time Signatures **Each beat is dotted and can't be divided into two equal halves*



4 dotted crotchet beats per bar (12 quavers)



3 dotted crotchet beats per bar (9 quavers)



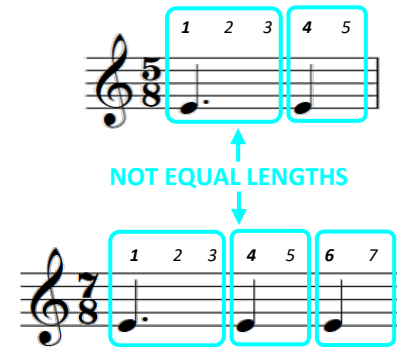
2 dotted crotchet beats per bar (6 quavers)

Listening Examples Go to Youtube to hear some examples of different metres:

2/4	Slaidburn March	<i>*A march is usually in 2/4 (Left, Right, Left, Right... = 1, 2, 1, 2...)</i>
3/4	Shostakovich's Waltz No.2	<i>*A waltz is a dance, usually in 3/4</i>
4/4	All That Jazz (from Chicago)	<i>*Chicago is a Musical</i>
5/4	Take Five (By Dave Brubeck)	<i>*Listen out for the jazz style</i>
7/4	The start of Money (By Pink Floyd)	<i>*Listen out for the opening bass riff</i>
6/8	We Are The Champions (By Queen)	<i>*Queen are a famous British Rock Band</i>
12/8	The Way You Make Me Feel (By Michael Jackson)	<i>*Count 1&a 2&a 3&a 4&a</i>

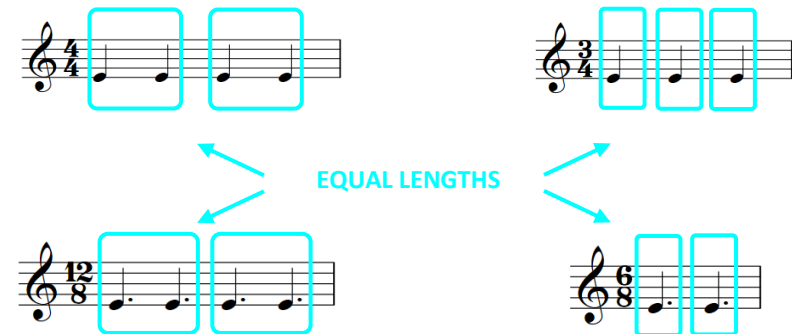
Irregular Time Signatures

Time signatures that can't be divided into equal groups of 2 or 3.



Regular Time Signatures

Time signatures that can be divided into equal groups of 2 or 3.



Writing Your Own Music

You must make sure every bar adds up to the correct number of beats. Changing metre is a good way to create contrast in your work.