

## VGHS Music Grade 10 – Worksheet LR 2

There are various ways to look at a musical rhythm.

- 1) You can read from the left to the right. This is how most beginners will start out, counting “1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and” in simple time or “1 and a 2 and a 3 and a” etc in compound time. (I’ll explain these terms later.) This is all very well for music theory, but it’s not a very effective technique for learning to sightread on one’s instrument.
- 2) You can see a note’s placement in the bar. This is a good technique from a musical perspective because it ties in with our sense of rhythm as musicians.
- 3) You can recognise rhythmic patterns, having learned them beforehand. A lot of musicians identify certain patterns with particular words, or a particular memory.

Actual musicians use a combination of all of these (and other) techniques when reading in reality. However, for the purposes of these worksheets, we are going to focus on (1) and a little of (2).

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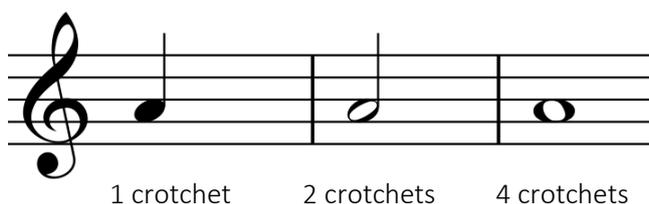
In almost all music of the world (not just Western Art Music), musical rhythm is understood as having **beats** and **bars**. There are some exceptions, but such music is quite rare. (For those of you who are also doing extra study online, bars are known as **measures** in the American system.)

Just as with the world of pitch, however, there is good news in that there are only a few possibilities for the type of bar and type of beat and so we can control the difficulty by mastering these.

- 1) Types of bar: for our course, we will deal with bars that have 2, 3 or 4 beats.
- 2) Types of beat: there are only two types of beat – those that are divisible by 2 (in half) and those that are divisible by 3.

Let’s start with the type of beat. At this stage, I’m going to introduce two new parts of rhythmic notation: the tie and the dot.

The tie: a tie combines two notes to form one note. Have a look at the following examples. We know how to write a note which is one crotchet in length, two crotchets in length and 4 crotchets in length:



*As you hopefully remember, a minim is played for the same length as 2 crotchets, and a semibreve for the same length as 4 crotchets.*

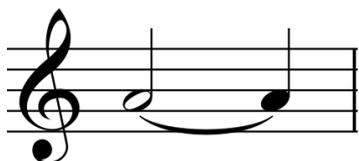
So, what if we wanted, for example, to write a note which is 3 crotchets in length? That’s where the tie comes in – it allows us to join together notes of various values to make up the total value we need. In some senses, it’s a bit like money: we don’t have a R65 note, but you can make R65 by joining together other smaller amounts, e.g:

$$R20 + R20 + R10 + R10 + R5 = R65$$

or  $R50 + R10 + R5 = R65$

Just as with money, there are usually very many ways to tie notes together.

So, to make our note which is 3 crotchets in length, the simplest might be to join a minim (which is equal to 2 crotchets) together with a single crotchet:



The important thing to realise is that this is considered as **ONE NOTE**, even though it is written by using more than one. That is just One of Those Things. This is the way it is done in stave notation.

*The above note is equal in length to 3 crotchets.*

Some examples:



7 semiquavers

5 crotchets

5 semiquavers

Write down the total length of the following notes. In each case, your answer must be expressed as a total of the smallest division. (A bit like a lowest common denominator in maths...)



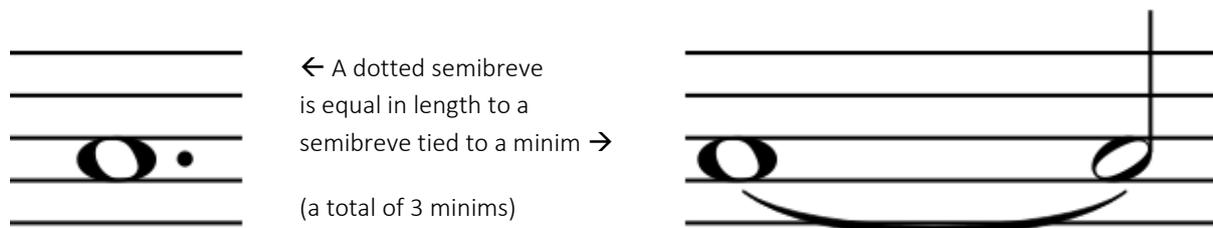
\_\_\_\_\_ 9 semiquavers \_\_\_\_\_

We will cover more on ties in a later section, but this should be enough for you to get the idea!

We need to discuss a special form of the tie in order to proceed with time signatures: the dot. A dot is used when we want to tie a note to another note of half its length. Let's break that down by completing the following table:

Name of main note	Write the main note	Which note is half the length?	Write the half-length note
Semibreve	○	Minim	♪
Minim			
Crotchet			
Quaver			
Semiquaver			

So that means that, for example, a dotted semibreve is the same length of time as a semibreve-tied-to-a-minim:



Note how the total length is always written as a total of 3 parts! In the above example, you may have been tempted to write “6 crotchets”, but this is not useful when dealing with time signatures. (That time may come, but it is not now.)

Complete the following table.

Dotted note	Written as a tie	Total length
		3 _____
		3 _____
		3 _____
		3 _____
		3 _____

The reason we needed to introduce ties is that, as I mentioned above, some time signatures use beats which can be divided in half and some use beats which can be divided into 3. Now we have a neat and efficient way to express a note which can be divided into 3, using a dot!

Now, with these tools in mind, let's start work on time signatures:

# SIMPLE AND COMPOUND TIME

Today we are learning about 2 different types of time – SIMPLE TIME and COMPOUND TIME.

## SIMPLE TIME

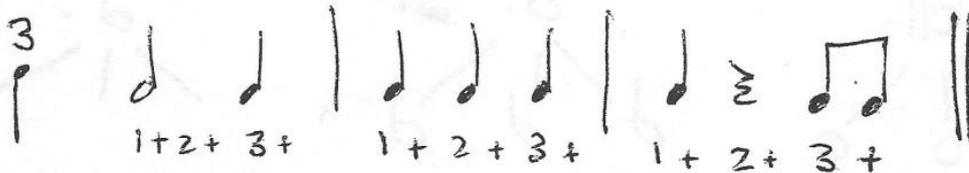
In simple time, the beats are counted in minims, crotchets, quavers, etc. For example:

$\frac{2}{\text{p}}$  means \_\_\_\_\_

$\frac{4}{\text{p}}$  means \_\_\_\_\_

$\frac{3}{\text{p}}$  means \_\_\_\_\_

In simple time we count: ONE AND TWO AND...etc. In other words the feel of the beat has 2 equal subdivisions. For example:

$\frac{3}{\text{p}}$  

## COMPOUND TIME

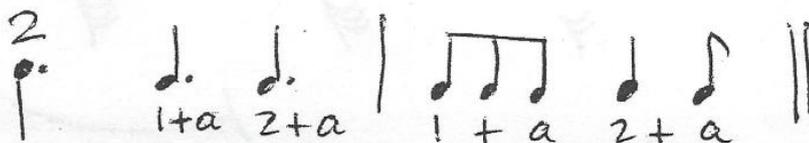
In compound time, the beats are counted in DOTTED minims, DOTTED crotchets, DOTTED quavers, etc. For example:

$\frac{2}{\text{p}\cdot}$  means \_\_\_\_\_

$\frac{3}{\text{p}\cdot}$  means \_\_\_\_\_

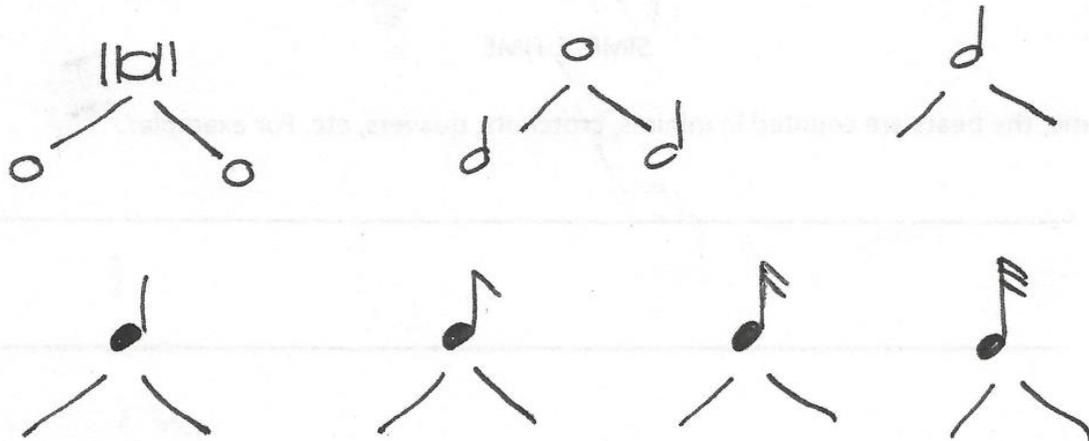
$\frac{2}{\text{q}\cdot}$  means \_\_\_\_\_

In compound time we count: ONE-AND-A TWO-AND-A... etc. In other words the feel of the beat has 3 equal subdivisions.

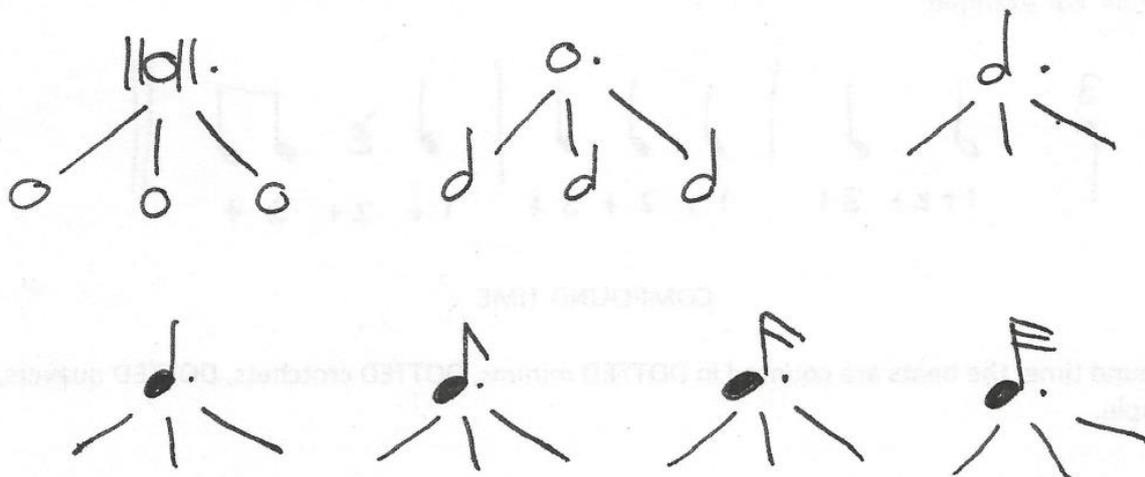
$\frac{2}{\text{p}\cdot}$  

# Revising dotted notes

Whereas semibreve, crotchet, minim, quaver beats can be divided in half.....



....dotted beats typically divide into 3 equal subdivisions:



This page contains some new notes! What are their names?



Remember that we count/feel as follows:

- In simple time, beats can be divided in half, so we feel each beat as a "1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and" type
- In compound time, beats can be divided in three, so we feel it as "1 and a 2 and a 3 and a 4 and a" type

Time signatures are written a bit like fractions (but without the dividing line, please!). The top number tells us how many beats there are in a bar, and the bottom tells us what type of beat. For example:

	2 dotted crotchets per bar
	3 quavers per bar
	4 crotchets per bar
	3 dotted minims per bar



## EXERCISES



1) Are these pieces of music in simple or compound time?

a. 

b. 

c. 

