











Rhythmic Notation

When we listen to music we are aware of a pulse. This is called the **beat**. These beats are grouped into sections called **bars** or **measures**. A bar could have any number of beats in it but usually we find 3 or 4 beats in a bar.

How fast the music is played is called the **tempo**.

Musicians need a way of remembering their music and also a way of teaching it to others. So a form of rhythmic and melodic notation was developed. **Melody** relates to pitch (how high or low a note sounds) and **rhythm** relates to how long a note or chord sounds.

Notes		Rests	
	Semibreve Whole Note Sounds for 4 beats	Semibreve Rest Whole Note Rest Silence for 4 beats	
	Minim Half Note Sounds for 2 beats	Minim Rest Half Note Rest Silence for 2 beats	
	Crotchet Quarter Note Sounds for 1 beat	Crotchet Rest Quarter Note Rest Silence for 1 beat	
	Quaver Eighth Note Sounds for 1/2 beat	Quaver Rest Eighth Note Rest Silence for 1/2 beat	
	Semiquaver Sixteenth Note Sounds for 1/4 beat	Semiquaver Rest Sixteenth Note Rest Silence for 1/4 beat	

At the beginning of a piece of sheet music you will see two numbers. This is called the **time signature**. The time signature tells you how many beats there are in each bar and what type of note receives one beat. There are many different time signatures but for the moment we will concentrate on the two most commonly used.

$\frac{4}{4}$ Usually called common time or marching time	$\frac{3}{4}$ Usually called waltz time.	$\frac{4}{4}$ Indicates how many beats in the bar	$\frac{4}{4}$ Indicates what type of note receives one beat
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Other examples of time signatures

$\frac{2}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{4}{4}$	$\frac{5}{4}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{6}{8}$	$\frac{9}{8}$	$\frac{12}{8}$
4	4	4	4	8	8	8	8