

Rhythmic Syllables

The manner in which beats are divided results in a particular metric classification.

If the beat is divided into two parts, it is a simple meter.

If the beat is divided into three parts, it is a compound meter.

The vowels are pronounced as follows:

a = short "o" sound (ah) e = long "a" sound (ay) i = long "e" sound (ee)

Simple Meter

Compound Meter

The diagram illustrates the division of beats in simple and compound meters across three levels: Beat, Division, and Subdivision.

- Beat:**
 - Simple Meter (2/4):** Two beats, each represented by a quarter note. The first beat is labeled '1' and the second '2'.
 - Compound Meter (6/8):** Two beats, each represented by a dotted quarter note. The first beat is labeled '1' and the second '2'.
- Division:**
 - Simple Meter (2/4):** Each beat is divided into two parts. The first beat is labeled '1 te' and the second '2 te'.
 - Compound Meter (6/8):** Each beat is divided into three parts. The first beat is labeled '1 la li' and the second '2 la li'.
- Subdivision:**
 - Simple Meter (2/4):** Each beat is divided into four parts. The first beat is labeled '1 ta te ta' and the second '2 ta te ta'.
 - Compound Meter (6/8):** Each beat is divided into six parts. The first beat is labeled '1 ta la ta li ta' and the second '2 ta la ta li ta'.

Examples of Rhythmic Counting

Two examples of rhythmic counting on a staff:

Example 1 (Common Time, C):
 1 2 te 3 4 ta te ta | 1 te ta 2 3 te te | 1 - 3 -

Example 2 (6/8 Time):
 1 la li 2 li | 1 ta la ta li ta 2 - | 1 - ta li 2 la ta li 1