




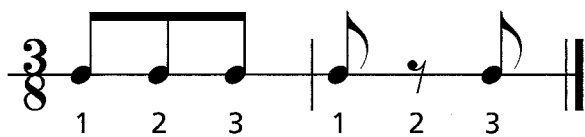
$\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{6}{8}$ Time Signatures



In $\frac{3}{8}$ time:

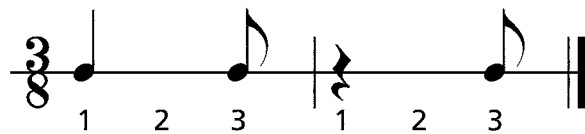
$\frac{3}{8}$ means there are 3 beats per measure.
 $\frac{8}{8}$ means the 8th note  receives 1 beat.



In $\frac{3}{8}$ time:

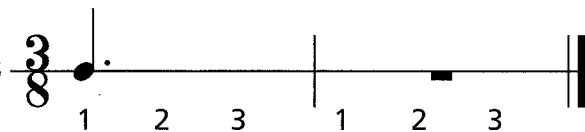
 or  = 1 beat




 or  = 2 beats






 or  = 3 beats



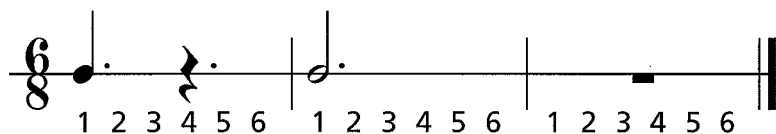
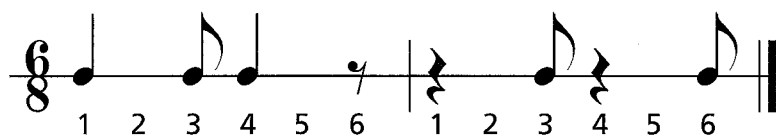
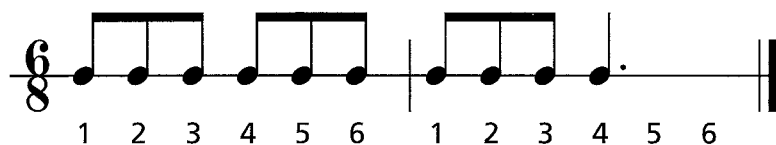
In $\frac{6}{8}$ time:

$\frac{6}{8}$ means there are 6 beats per measure.
 $\frac{8}{8}$ means the 8th note  receives 1 beat.

In $\frac{6}{8}$ time:

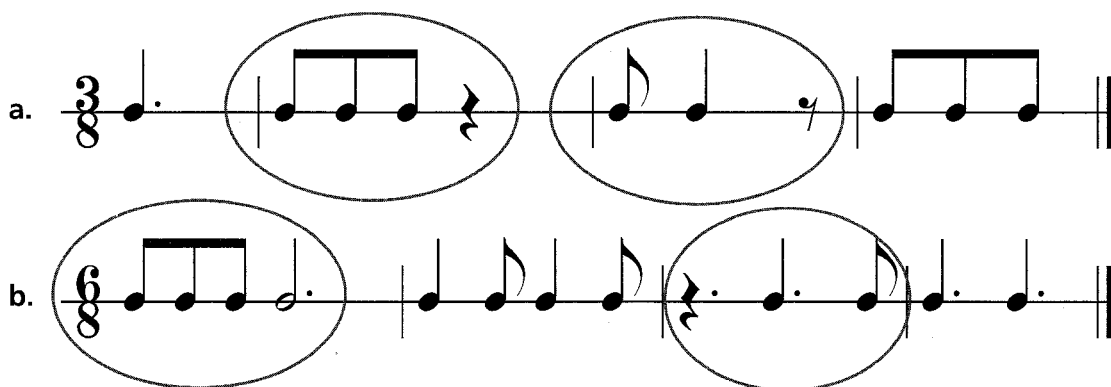
,  and  receive the same number of beats as in $\frac{3}{8}$ time.

In addition,  = 3 beats,  or  = 6 beats



Exercises

- 1** In the examples, circle the measures with the incorrect number of beats.



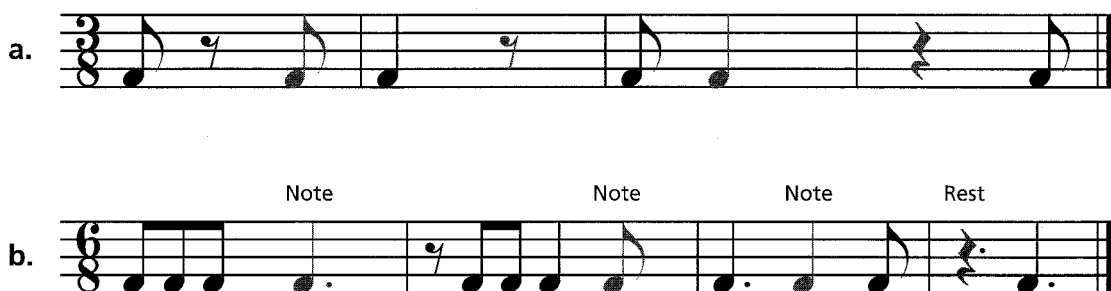
Note

Rest

Note

Rest

- 2** Complete the measures, using one note or rest. Write the beats, then count and clap the rhythm.



Note

Note

Note

Rest

$\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{6}{8}$ Time Signatures at Fast Tempos

Remember that $\frac{4}{4}$ or C time can be cut in half to $\frac{2}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{2}$ time when the composer wants the music to be performed at a fast tempo.

$\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{6}{8}$ can also be performed at fast tempos: count each $\frac{3}{8}$ measure in 1 count and each $\frac{6}{8}$ measure in 2 counts.

There is a strong beat on 1 in $\frac{3}{8}$ time and on beats 1 and 4 in $\frac{6}{8}$ time.

Because the tempo is fast, it is only necessary to count the strong beats.

In fast $\frac{3}{8}$ time:

♩ or ♪ = $\frac{1}{2}$ beat
 ♩♩♩ = 1 beat

♩ or ♪ = $\frac{2}{3}$ beat
 ♩ ♩ = 1 beat

♩. or ♩- = 1 beat

In fast $\frac{6}{8}$ time:

♪ , ♪ ♪ and ♩. receive the same number of beats as in $\frac{3}{8}$ time.

In addition, ♪. = 1 beat, ♩. or ♩- = 2 beats

Exercises

- 1** Write the strong beats below the notes in a fast tempo.

a. $\frac{3}{8}$ time signature. Musical notation with strong beats indicated by '1' below the notes.

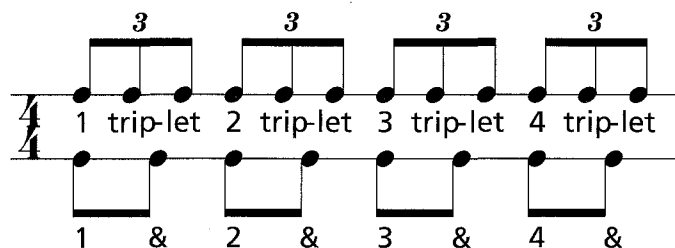
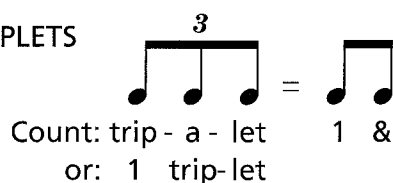
b. $\frac{6}{8}$ time signature. Musical notation with strong beats indicated by '1' and '2' below the notes.

- 2** Write the correct time signature and the strong beats below the notes in a fast tempo.

Eighth Note Triplets

When three notes are grouped together with a figure "3" above or below the notes, the group is called a TRIPLET. The 3 notes are played in the time of 2 notes of the same value. It is similar to playing $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{6}{8}$ at fast tempos.

8th NOTE TRIPLETS



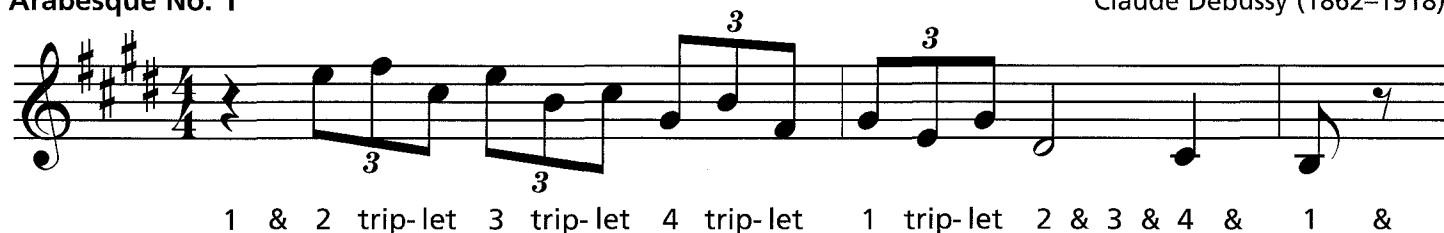
March (from the "Nutcracker Suite")

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)



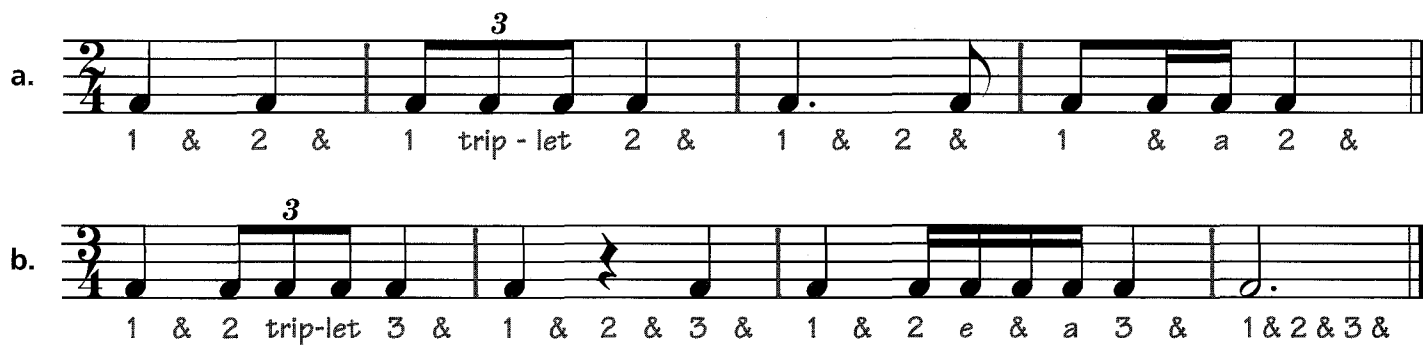
Arabesque No. 1

Claude Debussy (1862–1918)

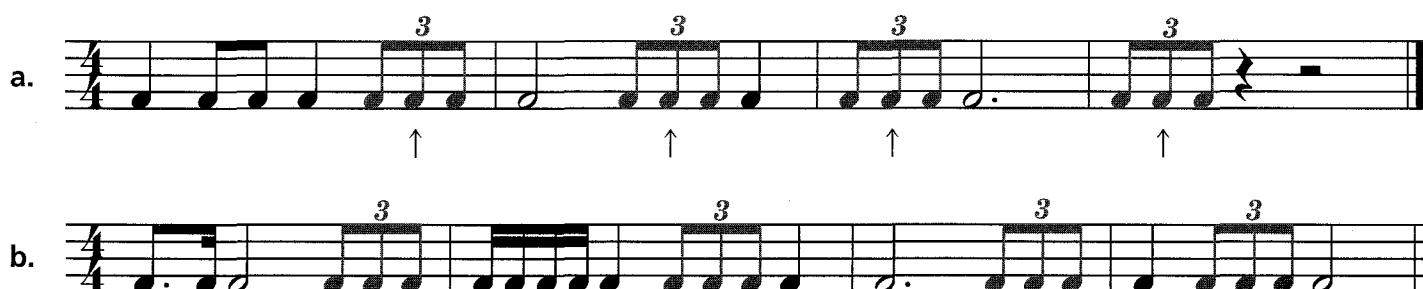


Exercises

- 1** For each example, add bar lines, write the beats under the notes and clap the rhythm.



- 2** Complete the incomplete measures below with eighth note triplets. Count and clap the rhythm.



Track 67

- 1** Listen to the example. Fill in the missing note and value in the last measure.

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Symphony No. 1



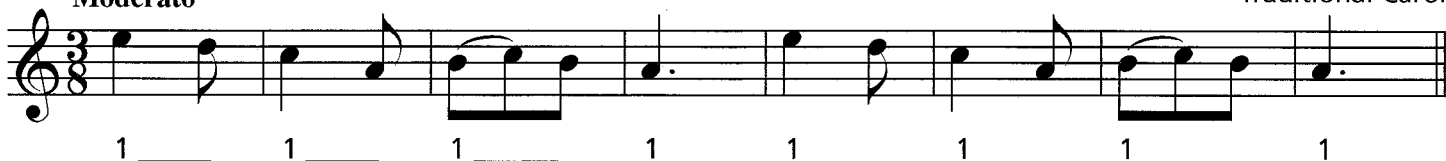
Track 68

- 2** Listen to the example in a fast $\frac{3}{8}$ time. It is counted in 1 and includes a 2-measure count-off.

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Moderato

Traditional Carol



Track 69

- 3** Listen to the rhythm pattern. Write the missing rhythm in the 3rd measure using the note C. The example will be played twice.



Track 70

- 4** Listen to the example in a fast $\frac{6}{8}$ time. It is counted in 2 and includes a 1-measure count-off.

For He's a Jolly Good Fellow

Allegro moderato (fast tempo)

English Folk Song



Track 71

- 5** Listen to the rhythm pattern. Write the missing rhythm in the 3rd measure using the note C. The example will be played twice.

Fast tempo



Track 72

- 6** Listen to the  pattern in the following example. There will be a 3-beat count-off.

Triumphal March (from "Aïda")

Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901)



Track 73

- 7** Listen to the rhythm pattern. Write the missing rhythm in the 3rd measure using the note B♭. The example will be played twice.

