

Notation: Rhythm



WHILE **PITCH** IS PRETTY CLEARLY NOTATED ON A VERTICAL AXIS, **NOTE LENGTH** IS INDICATED USING A SOMEWHAT ARCANE SYSTEM INVOLVING **NOTEHEADS, STEMS AND FLAGS**.

DOUBLE WHOLE NOTE



WHOLE NOTE



HALF NOTE



QUARTER NOTE



EIGHTH NOTE



SIXTEENTH NOTE



THIRTY-SECOND NOTE



SIXTY-FOURTH NOTE



ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY-EIGHTH NOTE



IN THIS CHART, EACH SUCCESSIVE TYPE OF NOTE IS **HALF AS LONG** AS THE NOTE TO ITS LEFT. NONE OF THESE NOTES HAS A **STANDARD LENGTH**; A HALF NOTE IN ONE PIECE MAY BE THE SAME LENGTH AS AN EIGHTH NOTE IN A DIFFERENT PIECE.

NOTE LENGTHS IN A PIECE ARE INDICATED BY THE **TEMPO MARKING** AT THE BEGINNING OF A PIECE OR SECTION.

DOUBLE WHOLE REST



WHOLE REST



HALF REST



QUARTER REST



EIGHTH REST



SIXTEENTH REST



THIRTY-SECOND REST



SIXTY-FOURTH REST



ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY-EIGHTH REST



A **REST** IS A PERIOD OF **SILENCE** THE LENGTH OF WHICH CORRESPONDS TO A PARTICULAR NOTE.



USUALLY RESTS ARE PLACED ON THE STAFF AT A PARTICULAR VERTICAL POSITION AS SHOWN HERE.

THE **AUGMENTATION DOT** IS A DOT PLACED TO THE RIGHT OF A NOTEHEAD. THOUGH SMALL, THIS DOT WIELDS SOME **SERIOUS POWER**: IT ADDS HALF OF THE ORIGINAL NOTE'S LENGTH!

MULTIPLE DOTS CAN ALSO BE ADDED, EACH ONE ADDING HALF OF THE PREVIOUSLY ADDED VALUE.



ACK!
GET IT OFF!
GET IT OFF!

TIES ARE CURVED MARKS WHICH CONNECT TWO NOTES TOGETHER TO CREATE A **SINGLE, EXTENDED SOUND**.

TO TIE **MORE THAN TWO** NOTES TOGETHER, DRAW TIES BETWEEN **EACH NOTE**; DO NOT USE A SINGLE, EXTENDED TIE.

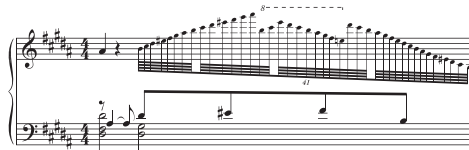


A **TUPLET** IS ANY NON-STANDARD DIVISION OF A NOTE. THESE ARE USUALLY WRITTEN AS A GROUP OF NOTES DELINEATED WITH A **BRACKET** AND A **NUMBER** SHOWING THE DIVISION BEING MADE.

MOST TUPLETS ARE SIMPLE DIVISIONS, LIKE THE **TRIPLETS** TO THE LEFT. BUT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE! **CHOPIN**, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD OFTEN **GO TO TOWN** WITH THESE THINGS.



FOR EXAMPLE, THESE AREN'T EXACTLY **QUARTER NOTES**; THEY ARE EACH A **THIRD** AS LONG AS A **HALF NOTE**.



WHA... GAH!
CHOPIN, NO!
DOWN, BOY!