



Always recommended to everyone is to practice using a metronome. The metronome will keep your beat steady. We don't always know when we, not on purpose, alter the beat to suit our abilities, faster or slower. An accurate placement of the beat is critical in the performance of a composition.

Until next time,
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The **Simple Beat** can be a half note, quarter note, eighth note and less commonly a sixteenth note or a whole note. All of these notes are divisible into two smaller equal parts. The two parts are counted as a whole number (describing the beat order in the measure) and the subdivision uses the word "and." Further division of the beat will use another syllable between the whole number and the word "and", usually conductor's choice. Beats have been counted: l e & a, 1 ta te ta, 1 e & e, etc.

The **Compound Beat** can be a dotted quarter note, a dotted eighth note, a dotted half note, and less commonly a dotted sixteenth note or a dotted whole note. All of these notes are divisible into three smaller equal parts. (The dot adds half of the note's value to the note. The note worth 2 of something and adds 1 of equal size; $2 + 1 = 3$.) The three parts are counted as a whole number (describing the beat order in the measure) and the subdivision uses the words "and" and "a." Further division of the beat will use another syllable between the whole number and the other divisions of the beat.

Further complication: In a slow tempo the **Compound Beat** and its subdivision may be all be counted using whole numbers; 1 2 3. Further division will use the word "and"; 1 & 2 & 3 &.