

# MUSIC THEORY.aargh©

## Tricky Rhythm Patterns-1 (Session 36) Triplets in Simple Meters

By Dr. Ona Pinsonneault

Last Spring, I was fortunate to be able to play my clarinet with the JuBELLate Ringers at Glenwood Lutheran Church in Glenwood, MN. The selection was Cathy Moglebust's arrangement "Dixieland Swing on What a Friend We Have In Jesus". Her setting is scored for 3 to 5 octaves of handbells, Bb Clarinet, Tuba and Drum Set. It was a blast for us to perform and the congregation loved it!

There was a tricky rhythm, however.

How do you perform a quartet triplet in 4/4 covering two beats? Subdivide beats three and four into eighth triplets counting "3 an da 4 an da." Place ties between successive eighth notes making them quarters. The new tied eighths in the first line below equal the quarters in the second line below.

Sometimes in 4/4 the triplet over two beats is subdivided like the second line below. Again, count beats 3 and 4 in eighth triplets. Then tie the first two eighths and the last two eighths.

If it helps also count the first two beats as triplets. Then by the time you get to beats 3 and 4 you are already thinking triplets.

(As Sue says: "Not Dif-fi-cult"). That's the sound of the rhythm in the above example. Say it out-loud.

Until next time,

Dr. P

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Ps: Feel free to send me your own favorite "tricky rhythm pattern". Include the meter signature and a description of the note values.